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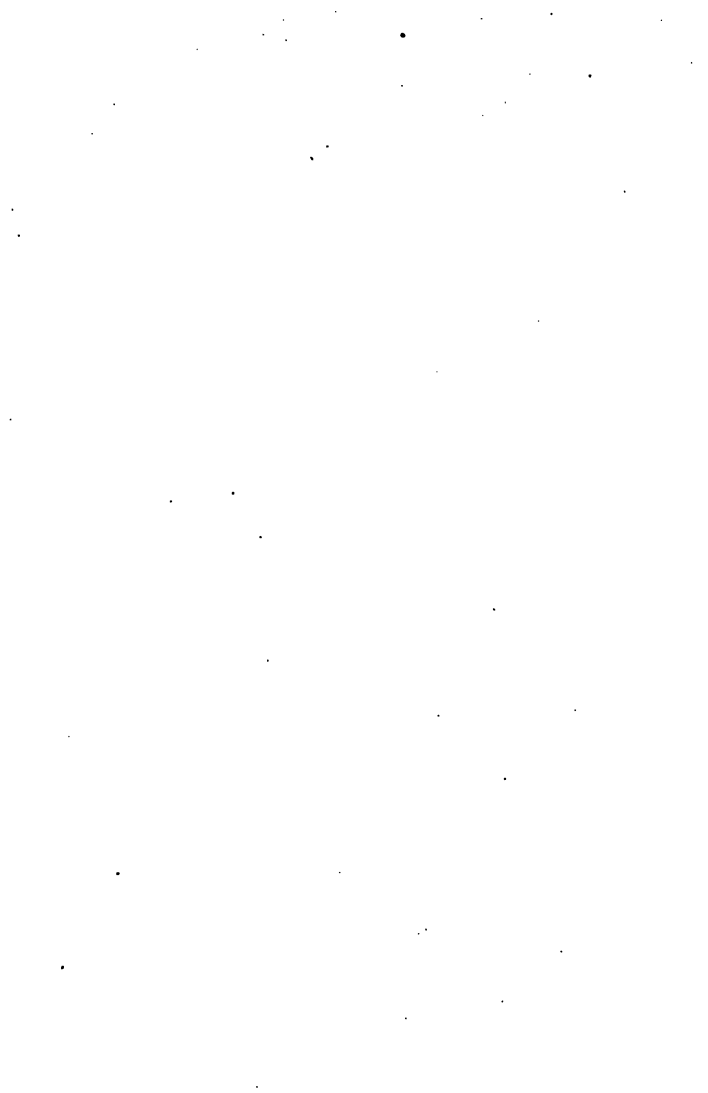
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Thoughts for
Glad Days.





THOUGHTS
FOR
GLAD DAYS.

SELECTED AND ARRANGED

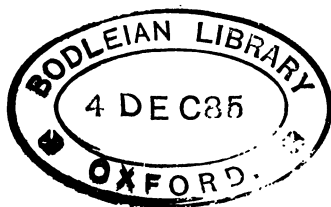
BY
J. F. ELTON AND L. BOURDILLON.

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord."—PSALM cxvi. 12, 13.

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Days come and go
In joy or woe,
Days go and come
In endless sum;
Only the eternal Day
Shall come but never go,
Only the eternal tide
Shall never ebb but flow.
O long Eternity,
My soul goes forth to thee!

H. BONAR.

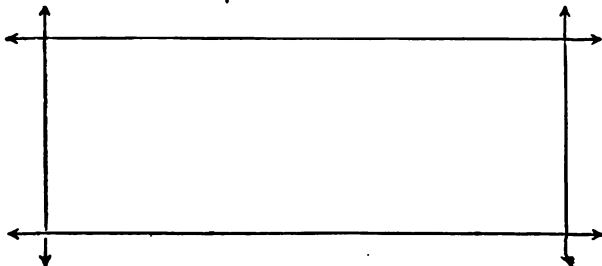
THOUGHTS FOR GLAD DAYS.

January 1.

“I will trust, and not be afraid.”—*Isaiah* xii. 2.

Look calmly on to the vista of years which it may be God's will you should have to pass on earth, and say: Bright or gloomy, it matters very little; they are His, not mine. If the shadows lie heavily on them, they will be His shadows. If the sun beam brightly over them, it will be His sun.—J. M. NEALE.

I need Thy presence every passing hour:
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's
power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with
me.—H. F. LYTE.



January 2.

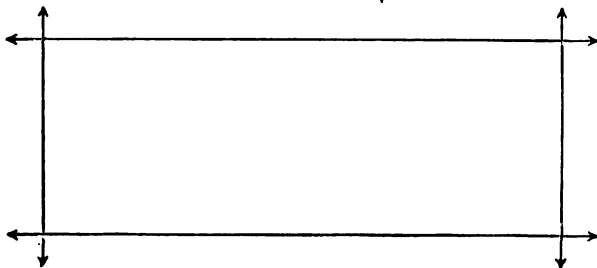
“Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.”—*Ephesians* vi. 10.

Trust not in thy strength, for thou hast none. Thou canst not think a good thought, nor form a wish, nor fulfil a good action, without the grace of God.—PINART.

Stand then in His great might,
With all His strength endued ;
And take to arm you for the fight
The panoply of God.

From strength to strength go on,
Wrestle and fight and pray ;
Tread all the powers of darkness down,
And win the well-fought day.

C. WESLEY.



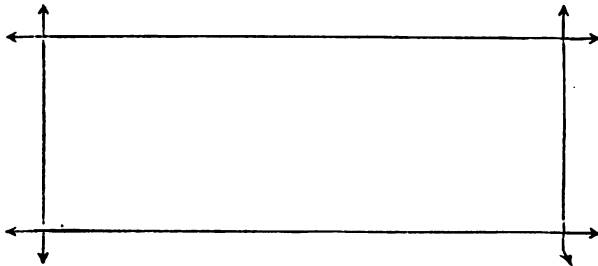
January 3.

“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.”—*Romans* xii. 11.

God hath given every man work enough to do, that there shall be no room for idleness, and yet hath so ordered the world, that there shall be space for devotion.

BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

He liveth long who liveth well,
All else is being flung away.
He liveth longest who can tell
Of true things truly done each day.
Fill up each hour with what will last,
Buy up the moments as they go;
The life above, when this is past
Is the ripe fruit of life below.—H. BONAR.



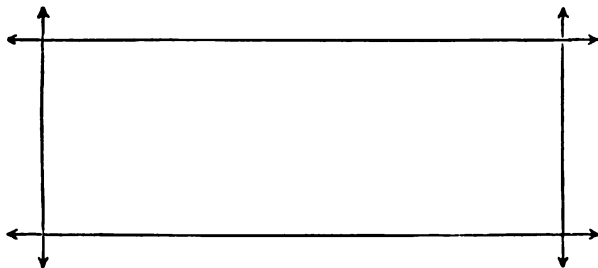
January 4.

“To every man his work.”—*St. Mark* xiii. 34.

All are not great stars in the Church ; you may be only a little rushlight ; yet, if your little rushlight shines well, there is just so much less darkness in the world, though perhaps you light only a very little corner.

So let my life be here
Not marked by noise, but by success alone ;
Not known by bustle, but by useful deeds,
Quiet and gentle, clear and fair as light,
Yet full of its all-penetrating power,
Its silent but resistless influence ;
Making no needless sound, yet ever working
Hour after hour, upon a needy world.

H. BONAR.



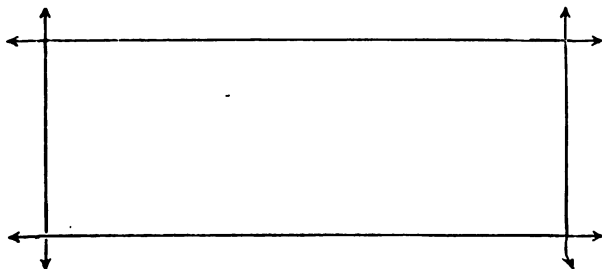
January 5.

“ Though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.”—
1 *Cor.* xiii. 2.

Faith at most only makes a hero, but love makes a saint ; faith can but put us above the world, but love brings us under God's throne; faith but makes us sober, but love makes us happy. Faith without charity is dry, harsh and sapless, it has nothing sweet, engaging, winning, and soothing, but it was charity which brought Christ down.—DR. NEWMAN.

Love is kind, and suffers long,
Love is meek, and thinks no wrong ;
Love itself than death more strong,
Therefore, give us love.

BISHOP WORDSWORTH.



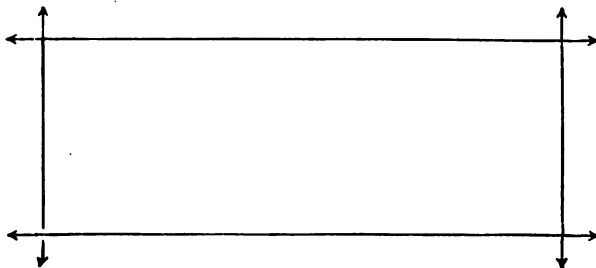
January 6.

(Epiphany.)

“Walk as children of light.”—*Ephesians* v. 8.

Our lives, if they be truly earnest and self-denying, may make known to some darkened heart the preciousness of Jesus Christ, and if the sorrows and cares of life have seemed to cast a shadow over the brightness of our Lord, let us arise and go forward on the narrow path, where the guiding Hand is clear and the comforting voice unmistakeable, assured that in a little while all clouds and darkness will have passed away, for the Lord shall be our everlasting Light.—CANON JELF.

Holy Jesus, every day
 Keep us in the narrow way,
 And, when earthly things are past,
 Bring our ransomed souls at last
 Where they need no star to guide,
 Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
 W. C. DIX.



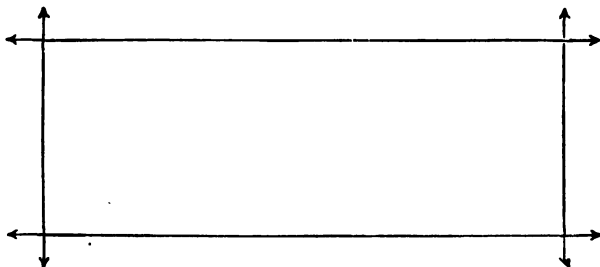
January 7.

“If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”
—*St. Luke ix. 23.*

Christian obedience does not consist merely in a few occasional efforts, a few accidental good deeds, or certain seasons of prayer and activity; the word *daily* implies that the self-denial which is pleasing to Christ consists in little things. To take up the Cross of Christ is not a great action done once for all, it consists in the continual practice of small duties which are distasteful to us.—DR. PUSEY.

Take up thy Cross then in His strength,
And calmly every danger brave,
'Twill guide thee to a better home,
And lead to victory o'er the grave.

C. W. EVEREST.



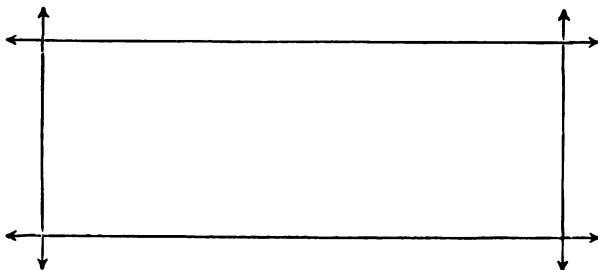
January 8.

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."—*Ephesians* v. 20.

One of the chickens went to the trough to drink, and every time she drank, she lifted up her head and her eyes towards heaven. See what this little chick doth, and learn of her to acknowledge whence your mercies come, by receiving them with looking up.—J. BUNYAN.

Happy souls! their praises flow
Even in this vale of woe;
Waters in the desert rise,
Manna feeds them from the skies;
On they go from strength to strength,
Till they reach Thy throne at length,
At Thy feet adoring fall,
Who hast led them safe through all.

H. F. LYTE.



January 9.

“Jesus saith unto him—Follow thou Me.”—
St. John xxi. 22.

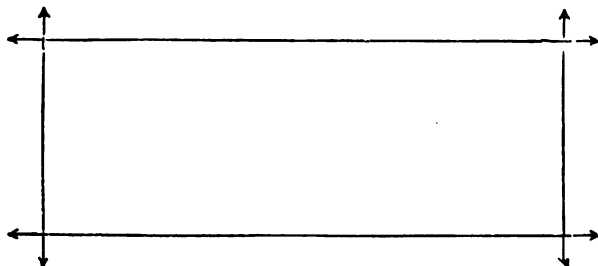
To follow Christ does not of necessity involve anything new or unwonted. To be perfect in Him, does not always need change.

REV. T. T. CARTER.

O could we learn that sacrifice,
What lights would all around us rise !
How would our hearts with wisdom talk
Along life's dullest dreariest walk !

The trivial round, the common task,
Would furnish all we ought to ask ;
Room to deny ourselves ; a road
To bring us, daily, nearer God.

JOHN KEBLE.



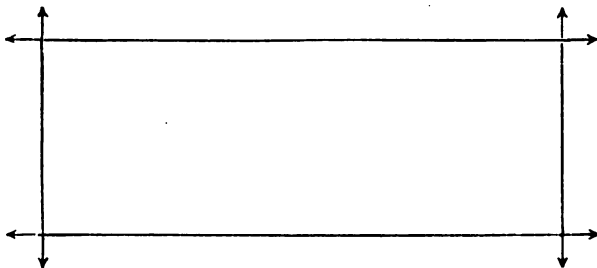
January 10.

“Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth ; keep the door of my lips.”—*Psalm cxli.* 3.

I tell you, on God's authority, that care over the words is the very secret and key of care over the life.—DEAN GOULBURN.

From idle words, that restless throng
And haunt our hearts when we would pray,
From pride's false chime, and jarring wrong
Seal Thou my lips, and guard the way ;
For Thou hast sworn, that every ear,
Willing or loth, Thy trump shall hear,
And every tongue unchained be,
To own no hope, no God, but Thee !

JOHN KEBLE.



January 11.

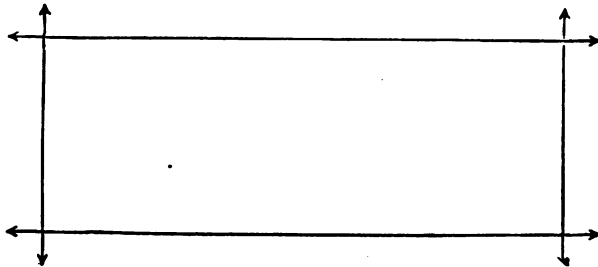
“He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.”—1 *John* ii. 6.

The one sign of being God's child is being like Him—like Him in love—like Him in charity—like Him in forbearance—like Him in forgiveness of injuries, as well as like Him in separation from all sin.

REV. M. F. SADLER.

We would be like Him, Whom we call our Lord,
We would reflect the image that we love,
O chasten our whole being to accord
With the deep tides of life that in Him move.

CAROLINE M. NOEL.



January 12.

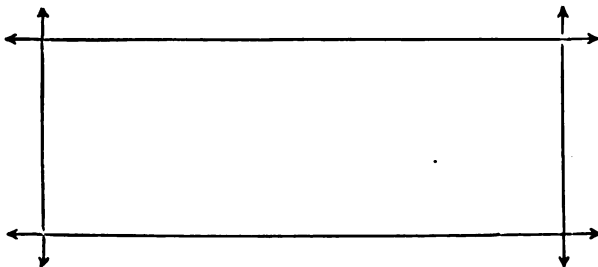
“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”
—*St. Matt.* xxii. 37. —

It is not meant that we must love nothing but God. We must love nothing sinful. And what we may love, and even what we ought to love, is to be loved subordinately to Him ; so that we love Him better than what we love best here ; and love Him more for having given us so much to love.—BISHOP JACKSON.

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep us,
Saying, “Christian, love Me more.”

Jesus calls us : by Thy mercies,
Saviour, may we hear Thy call ;
Give our hearts to Thine obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all.

C. F. ALEXANDER.



January 13.

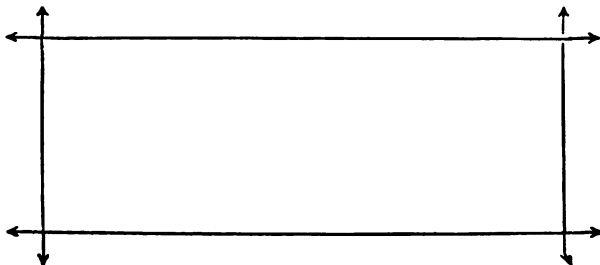
“The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men.”—2 *Timothy* ii. 24.

Gentleness is thy work, my God, and it is the work Thou hast given me to do. I cannot glorify Thee, save by striving after, and fulfilling it in myself.—ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

Therefore be gentle, O my soul,
Thy thoughts and words alike control,
And if thou must in aught decide
Err ever on the gentle side.

For gentleness can do no wrong
To wheat or tare, to weak or strong,
Then, be thou strong or be thou weak,
Think gently, and as gently speak.

J. S. B. MONSELL.



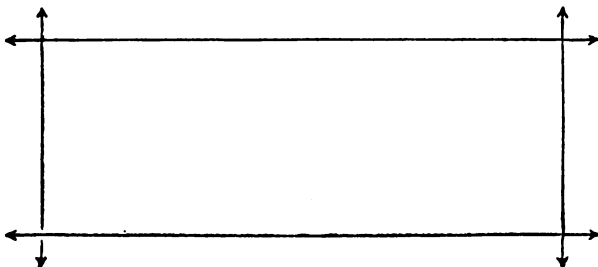
January 14.

“Master, I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest.”—*St. Matt. viii. 19.*

When two paths of duty bewilder thee, and
thou knowest not which is right to follow,
choose that which to thyself is most full of
thorns.

I for thy sake was pierced with many sorrows,
And bore the Cross ;
Yet heeded not the galling of the arrows,
The shame and loss.
So faint not thou, whate'er the burden be,
But bear it bravely, even to Calvary.

SAVONAROLA.



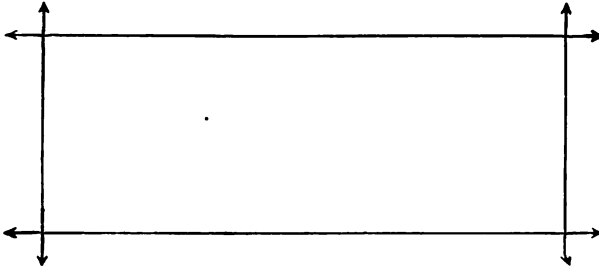
January 15.

“Love is of God, and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”—1 *John* iv. 7.

Are you gladdened by the deep joy of human affection, and yet half afraid to trust yourself to it, for fear lest you should lose sight of Jesus Christ? Be not alarmed, it is His own blessed gift. He knows what friendship is, and He can hallow it to you.

CANON JELF.

No love is perfect here, it leads us on
To love's great source—the Uncreated One;
Most true is that through which we learn to
see
Most of Thy strength, and most, O Lord, of
Thee.



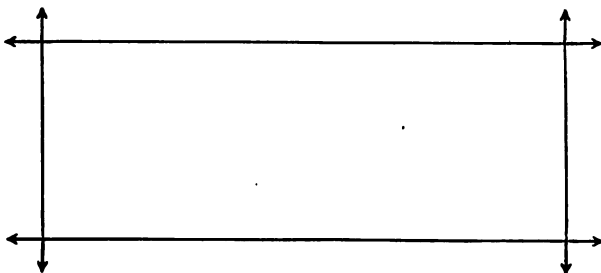
January 16.

"I exhort therefore, that . . . supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men."—1 *Timothy* ii. 1.

Intercession should spread through our lives, so as to become part of our being. When we have an interval in our occupations, when we are kept waiting, when we are held in necessary idleness, being with others, and yet having nothing special to do ourselves, when we are walking, when we cannot sleep by night, intercession should be the passion of our hearts.—DR. PUSEY.

For all we love, the poor, the sad,
The sinful, unto Thee we call;
O let thy mercy make us glad;
Thou art our Jesus, and our All.

F. W. FABER.



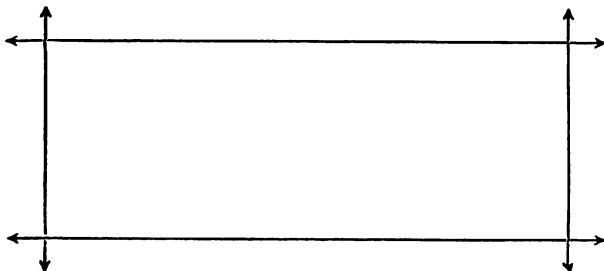
January 17.

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”—*St. John* xiii. 35.

He that thinks and speaks kindly of his neighbour from a true spirit of love, has on him a mark that he is himself a child of God, and as a child of God he will bear a blessing with him wherever he goes.

O brother man, fold to thy heart thy brother,
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other;
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.
Follow with reverend steps the great Example
Of Him whose holy work was “doing good,”
So shall the wide world seem our Father’s Temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

J. G. WHITTIER.



January 18.

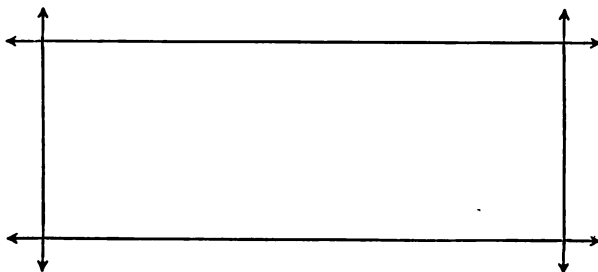
“He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.”—*Proverbs* xvi. 32.

The perfect victory is to triumph over ourselves.—THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Great may he be who can command,
And rule with just and tender sway;
Yet is diviner wisdom taught
Better by him who can obey.

Blessèd are those who die for God,
And earn the Martyr's crown of light;
Yet he who lives for God may be
A greater conqueror in His sight.

A. A. PROCTER.



January 19.

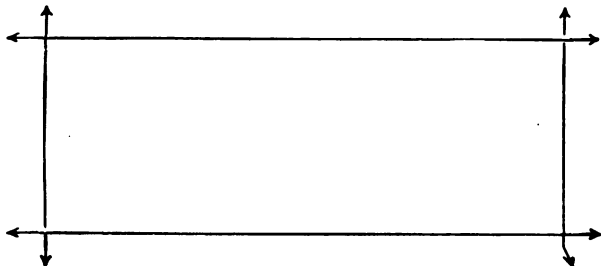
“Not with eye-service, as men-pleasers ; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.”—*Ephesians* vi. 6.

Whatever we do, we should do it all in His name. Thus, all work, however humble and earthly, may be sanctified and spiritualised. All may be blessed and sanctified, if begun, continued, and ended in God. That is, if His blessing be invoked upon it, and if it be carried out with a right intention of pleasing God, not as a slave of men.

REV. S. BARING-GOULD.

The knowledge of His presence here in man
Crowns every action, and round meanest
things

Weaves rays of glory ; it is this which makes
Each calling honourable ; while all in place
As kingly servants, stand for His behests
And ministrations.—ISAAC WILLIAMS.

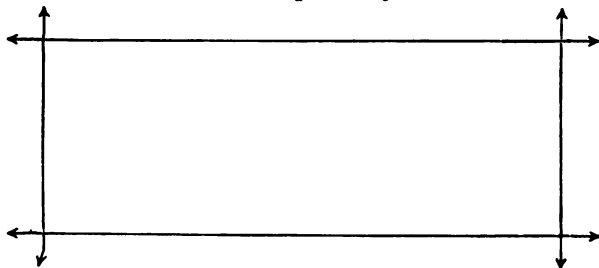


January 20.

"Thou art a place to hide me in, thou shalt preserve me from trouble."—*Psalm xxxii.* 8 (P. B.)

As birds have their nests upon trees to retire to, when they are weary ; and deer have bushes and thickets wherein to hide and shroud themselves, even so should our hearts choose out every day some place, either upon Mount Calvary, or in the wounds of our Redeemer, there to make our spiritual retreat upon every occasion, and there to recreate and refresh ourselves amidst the turmoils of exterior affairs.—REV. A. FARINDON.

We walk on earth—and to its ways,
Our time and thoughts are given,
Yet, amidst all its busiest days,
Our hearts may be in Heaven.
Nothing so lightens the dull load
Life's urgent claims impose,
As close communion with our God ;
It is our best repose.—J. S. B. MONSELL.



January 21.

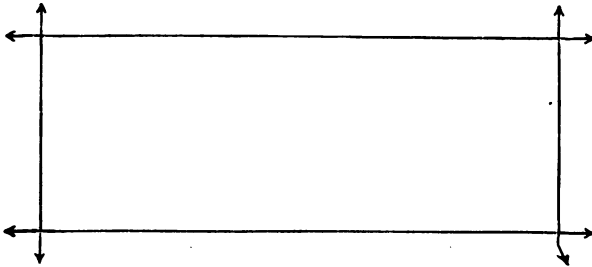
“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”—*Philippians* iv. 11.

Our Lord bids each renounce himself, that is, our own will. “I wish for this or that,” “I could do better here or there”—all this is temptation. Our Lord knows perfectly what He is doing; let us follow His Will, and abide where He has placed us.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.

Let but my fainting heart be blest,
With Thy sweet Spirit for its guest—
My God, to Thee I leave the rest:
Thy Will be done.

CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT.



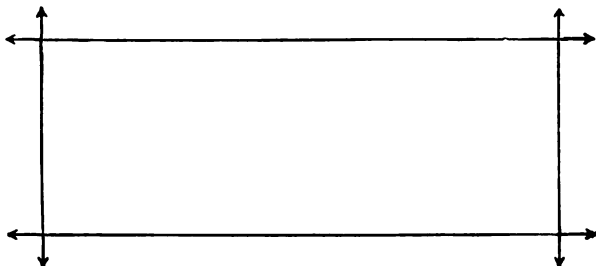
January 22.

“Let us go on unto perfection.”—*Hebrews* vi. 1.

The weaknesses, the littlenesses, the incoherences of daily life, so long as they are felt and struggled with, are evidences of a victory yet to come. They bear witness to us that we cannot rest till we rise to the level of Him in whom we live.—DR. WESTCOTT.

All our weak endeavours bless,
As we ever onward press
Till we perfect holiness,
We beseech Thee, hear us.

Lead us daily nearer Thee,
Till at last Thy face we see,
Crowned with thine own purity,
We beseech Thee, hear us.
REV. T. B. POLLOCK.



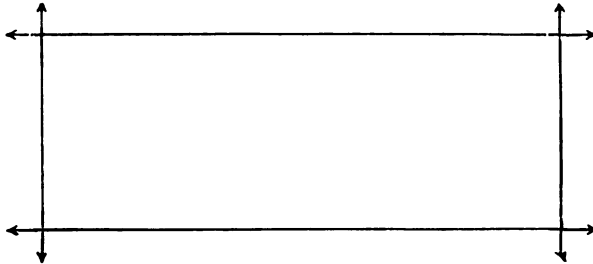
January 23.

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same, with thanksgiving.”—*Colossians* iv. 2.

Good prayers never come weeping home. I am sure I shall have either what I ask, or what I ought to ask.—BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

Oh! not a joy or blessing
With this can we compare,
The power that He hath given us
To pour our hearts in prayer!
Whene'er thou pin'st in sadness,
Before His footstool fall,
And remember, in thy gladness,
His grace who gives thee all.

JANE CROSS SIMPSON.



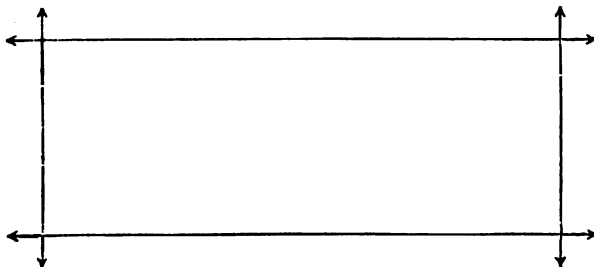
January 24,

“God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able.”—I *Cor.* x. 13.

When thou art tempted, think of Christ. It is not you who are to conquer, but He who is to conquer in you.—DEAN GOULBURN.

In the hour of trial,
Jesu! pray for me,
Lest by base denial,
I depart from thee.
When thou seest me waver,
With a look recall,
Nor for fear or favour.
Suffer me to fall.

J. MONTGOMERY.



January 25.

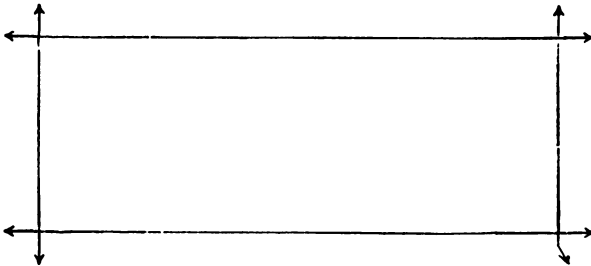
(Conversion of S. Paul.)

“Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?”—
Acts ix. 6.

Earnestness is simply set on doing God's will.
Oh that we had more of this spirit; that we
could take that simple view of things, as to
feel that the one thing which lies before us,
is to please God.—DR. NEWMAN.

Lord Christ, I Thee adore,
And long to love Thee more,
And serve Thee better 'midst this earthly
strife.

Make me more earnest, true ;
Help me thy work to do,
Ere the night cometh, O Thou Light of
life.—R. H. BAYNES.

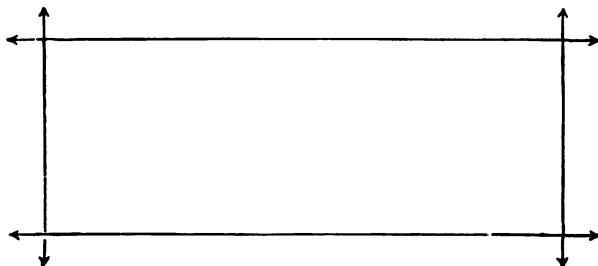


January 26.

“Ye have need of patience.”—*Hebrews* x. 36.

Patience is the endurance of any evil, out of the love of God, as the will of God. There is nothing too little in which to approve ourselves to God; nothing too little, in which, without God, we should not fail; nothing too great, which, with the help of God, we may not endure.—DR. PUSEY.

There are briars besetting every path
Which call for patient care,
There is a cross in every lot
And an earnest need for prayer.
But a loving heart, that leans on Thee,
Is happy anywhere.—A. L. WARING.



January 27.

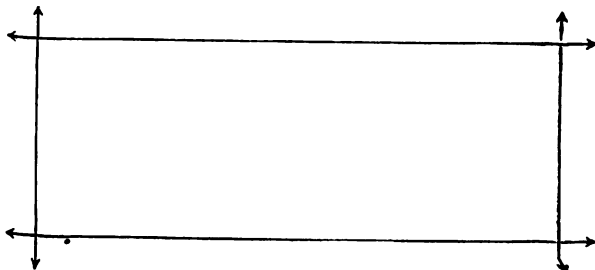
“To be spiritually minded is life and peace.”—
Romans viii. 6.

God's peace can only be found when all self-seeking and self-will are utterly thrown aside. When you cease to be eager for anything save God's glory, and the fulfilment of His good pleasure, your peace will be as deep as the ocean, and flow with the strength of a flood.—ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

Well may thy own beloved, who see
In all their lot their Father's pleasure,
Bear loss of all they love, save Thee,
Their living, everlasting treasure!

Well may Thy happy children cease,
From restless wishes, prone to sin,
And, in Thy own exceeding peace,
Yield to Thy daily discipline!

A. L. WARING.



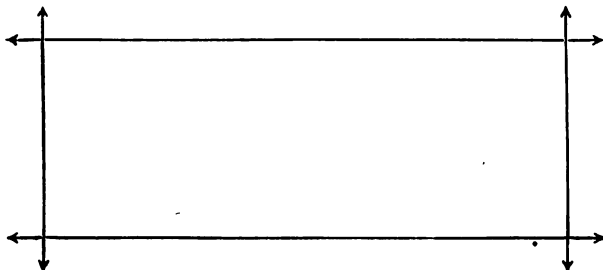
January 28.

“It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord.
To shew forth Thy loving kindness in the morning,
and Thy faithfulness every night.”—*Psalm xcii.* 1, 2.

Who blusheth not to hear the birds sing
every morning, how sweetly and how solemnly
they sing their praises to God, and is so dull
himself to do the like?—St. AMBROSE.

Therefore I cry, and cry again,
And in no quiet canst Thou be,
Till I a thankful heart obtain
Of Thee;
Not thankful, when it pleaseth me,
As if Thy blessing had spare days;
But such a heart, whose pulse may be
Thy praise.

GEORGE HERBERT.



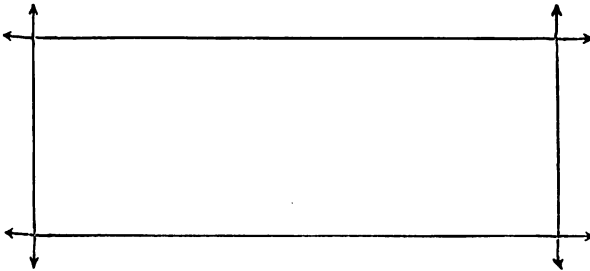
January 29.

“Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”—
St. Matt. vi. 34.

In nothing is the goodness of our heavenly Father more apparent than in hiding from us the events which are before us. Depend upon it, God's time is always best. Trust and be patient; herein lies thy duty.

Either grief will not come, or if it must,
 Do not forecast,
 And while it cometh, it is almost past;
 Away, distrust!
 My God hath promised, He is just.

GEORGE HERBERT.

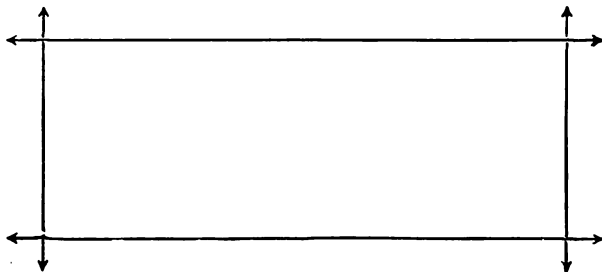


January 30.

“Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.”—*Psalm cxlix. 2.*

Steadfastness of purpose, an earnest desire to serve Him with a whole heart, is the condition of all joy. To have His joy poured within us, we must be capable of joy in God. And they only can joy in God, who are at peace with Him; they only are at peace, who love Him above all besides.—DR. PUSEY.

There are in this loud stunning tide
 Of human care and crime,
 With whom the melodies abide
 Of th' everlasting chime;
 Who carry music in their heart
 Through dusky lane and wrangling mart,
 Plying their daily task with busier feet,
 Because their secret souls a holy strain repeat.
 JOHN KEBLE.



January 31.

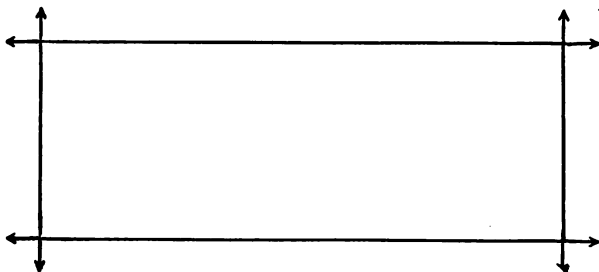
“In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they shall both be alike good.”—*Ecclesiastes* xi. 6.

Happy is the man that soweth the good
and the true; the harvest will not fail him.

LACORDAIRE.

Where is the seed we scatter,
With weak and trembling hand,
Beside the gloomy waters,
Or on the arid land?
Not lost! for after many days,
Our prayer and toil shall turn to praise.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



C

February 1.

"They took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus."—*Acts* iv. 13.

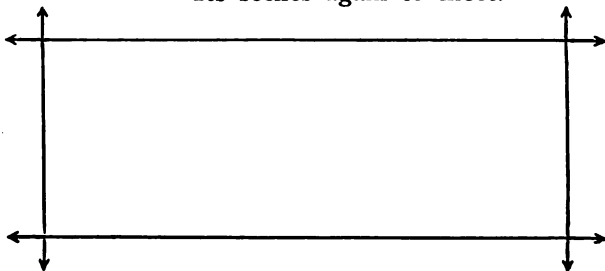
That mysterious life, which so wonderfully enters into us, to dwell in us, is given to us, in order that it may become diffusive, manifesting itself in the outer circle of our daily life, in love, in healing, and manifold forms of blessing, causing others to feel God is in us of a truth, by the effects of the Higher Presence, radiating from us, unknown it may be to ourselves, as it passes from us in tone or accent, in look or word, but yet felt by others and testifying that we have been with Jesus.

REV. T. T. CARTER.

A moment from this outward life,
Its service, self-denial, strife,

I joyfully retreat.

My soul through intercourse with Thee,
Strengthened, refreshed, and calmed shall be,
Its scenes again to meet.



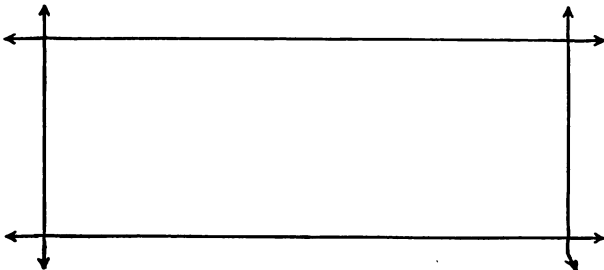
February 2.

(Purification of St. Mary the Virgin.)

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”—*St. Matt. v. 8.*

Mark how well their reward is suited to their labour. Their frequent contemplating and beholding of God's purity as they did, while they were on their journey, and their labouring to be like Him, shall bring them to sit down in glory, and to be for ever the pure beholders of that purest object. What that is we cannot tell, nor can you conceive it ; but walk heavenwards in purity, and then you shall know what it means ; *for you shall see Him as He is.*—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

They shall see God ! O glorious fruition
Of all their hopes and longings here below !
They shall see God in beatific vision,
And evermore into His likeness grow,—
Children of God.—W. H. BURLEIGH.



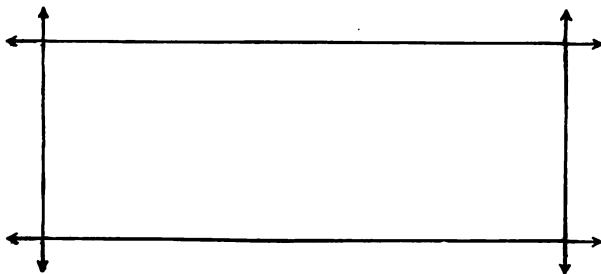
February 3.

“Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”—*St. Matthew* xxv. 40.

There is no surer way of keeping up a close communion with Jesus, than to be occupied in acts of love to those who are especially dear to His heart,—the afflicted, the poor, the distressed. We then bring ourselves into contact with the Lord, for whatever we do unto them, we do likewise unto Him. He comes near to us in the outward form of His suffering children.—REV. F. WINSLOW.

Whatsoever thing thou doest
To the least of mine and lowest,
That thou doest unto me!

LONGFELLOW.



February 4.

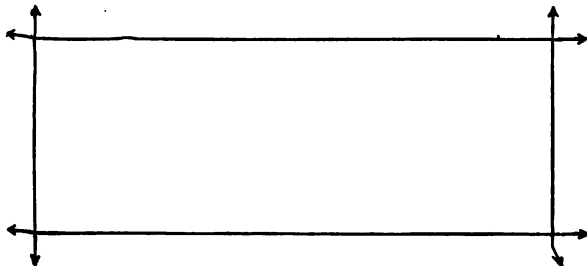
"I am the Light of the world ; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the Light of Life."—*St. John* viii. 12.

Man is in light so long as God is present with him ; he is in darkness directly God is absent.—S. AUGUSTINE.

Sun of my soul, Thou Saviour dear,
It is not night if Thou be near ;
O may no earth-born cloud arise
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes.

Abide with me from morn till eve,
For without Thee I cannot live ;
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without Thee I dare not die.

JOHN KEBLE.



February 5.

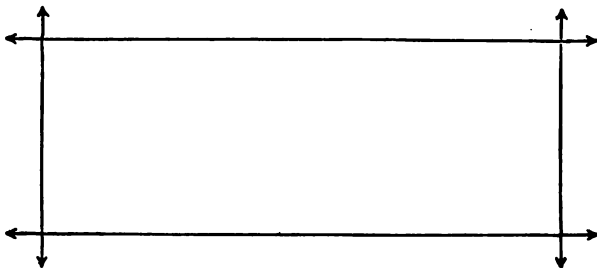
“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”—*Ephesians* vi. 12.

Every true Christian is a fighting man, and he knows it. They will manage their warfare best, and most skilfully, who most clearly realise to themselves the fact of a personal, though spiritual adversary.—DEAN VAUGHAN.

A helm upon my brow I wear,
I wield in my right hand a sword,
A banner with device I bear,
For Christ my Lord.

I battle to my latest breath,
Then, not my joys, but labours cease,
And I am borne through life to death,
Through war to peace.

S. J. STONE.



February 6.

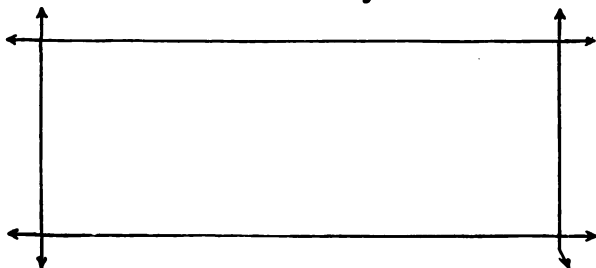
“Continuing instant in prayer.”—*Romans* xii. 12.

Prayer is a being with God. A Christian's life is a continual prayer. He who is with God most at other times, will be most with Him then; he whose thoughts most rise amid his daily business, will find them rise most easily to Him, when prayer itself becomes his business.—DR. PUSEY.

Prayer is the burthen of a sigh,
The falling of a tear;
The upward glancing of an eye,
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air,
His watchword at the gates of death;
He enters Heaven with prayer.

J. MONTGOMERY.

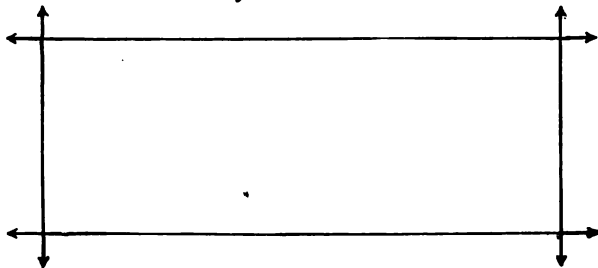


February 7.

“He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much.”—*St. Luke* xvi. 10.

Let us do what we know God requires of us, and so soon as we perceive His will in anything, let there be no drawing back, only absolute faithfulness. I should say that a soul which sincerely longs after God, never considers whether a thing is small or great. The smallest things become great when God requires them of us.—ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

Whate'er Thy purpose be, O Lord,
In things or great or small,
Let each minutest part be done,
That Thou may'st still be all.
In all the little things of life,
Thyself, Lord, may I see,
In little and in great alike
Reveal Thy love to me.—H. BONAR.



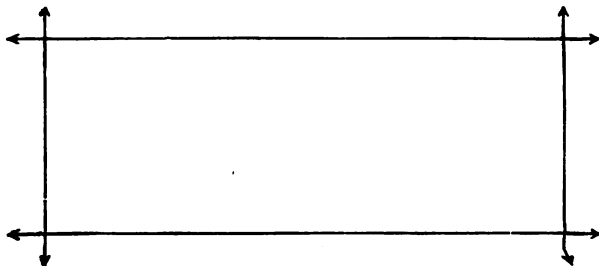
February 8.

“If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”—*St. John* xiv. 23.

Heaven and earth, the palaces of all Kings and Cæsars, cannot give a dwelling to God; but with men who keep His Word will He make His abode.—MARTIN LUTHER.

. . . . Bless'd are they
Who hear His word and keep it well,
The living homes where Christ shall dwell,
And never pass away.

JOHN KEBLE.



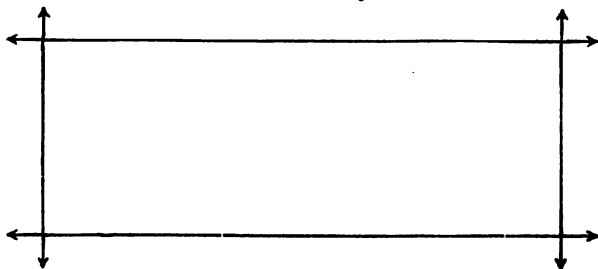
February 9.

“Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness.”—*Ephesians* iv. 1.

It is the peculiarity of the Christian religion, that humility and holiness increase in equal proportion.—W. WILBERFORCE.

Thesaint that wears Heaven's brightest crown,
In deepest adoration bends ;
The weight of glory bows him down
The most, when most his soul ascends.
Nearest the Throne itself must be
The footstool of humility.

J. MONTGOMERY.



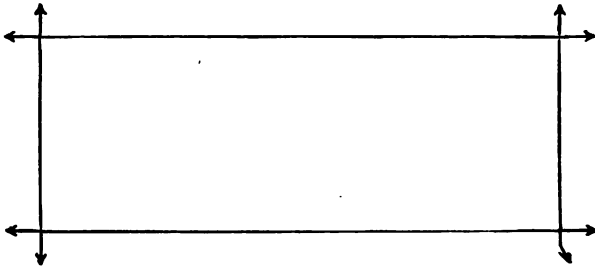
February 10.

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him.”—*Colossians* ii. 6.

Christianity is not a lazy and idle profession, sitting still, or a standing, or a speculation. Let us then not fly, but walk; not hover aloft in the contemplation of what is to be done, but stoop down and do it; subdue our will to our knowledge, our sense to reason. Let us learn to walk, and by walking, be more learned than before.—REV. A. FARINDON.

Arise! for the day is passing,
And you lie dreaming on;
The others have buckled their armour,
And forth to the fight are gone.
A place in the ranks awaits you,
Each man has some part to play,
The Past and the Future are nothing
In the face of the stern To-day.

A. A. PROCTER.



February 11.

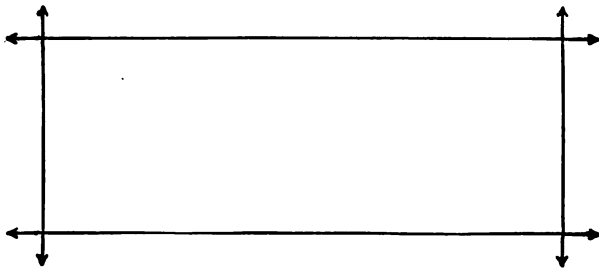
“O Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me.”—*Psalm cxxxix. 1.*

Walk as in the Presence of God, always remembering that He observes not only our words and actions, but also takes notice of our most secret thoughts. He who is always sensible that that pure and all-seeing Eye is continually upon him, will never venture to sin, with set purpose, or full consent of mind.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Let such a sense of Thee,
Thy watching presence, Thy sustaining love,
His bosom guest inalienably be ;
That whereso'er he move,
A heavenly light serene
Upon his heart and mien
May sit undimmed ! a gladness not his own,
Unspeakable, and to the world unknown.

FELICIA HEMANS.



February 12.

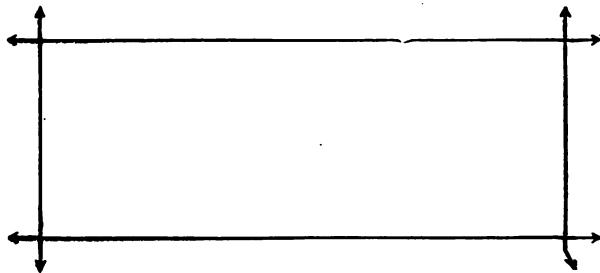
“God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed towards His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”—*Hebrews*.vi. 10.

In God's world, for those that are in earnest, there is no failure. No work truly done, no word earnestly spoken, no sacrifice freely made, was ever made in vain. Never did the cup of cold water, given for Christ's sake, lose its reward.—REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

In these sharp extremities of fortune,
The blessings which the weak and poor can
scatter

Have their own season. 'Tis a little thing
To give a cup of water, yet its draught
Of cool refreshment, drained by fevered lips,
May give a shock of pleasure to the frame,
More exquisite than when nectarian juice
Renews the life of joy in happiest hours.

TALFOURD.



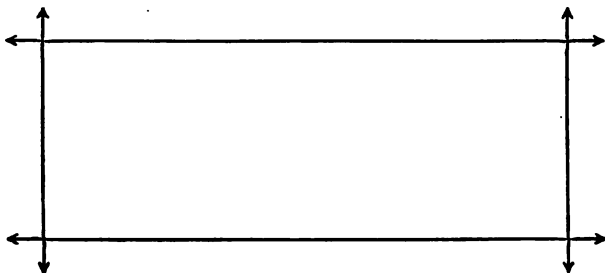
February 13.

“Be strong, and of a good courage, fear not, for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”—*Deut. xxxi. 6.*

In true hearts, to doubt the future is to distrust God; we have our part in the present, not beyond. The future lies with God alone. We are to glorify God in a twofold manner: we glorify Him by the full response to His immediate gifts; the repose of a childlike confidence in Him for the future, also glorifies Him.—REV. T. T. CARTER.

What though the future with its unknown
Be hidden from my sight, [depths
I know that its untrodden paths
Lead onward into light.

Thou knowest all my need, upon Thy care
I utterly depend,
Thy patience that has borne the past
Will keep me to the end.—C. M. NOEL.



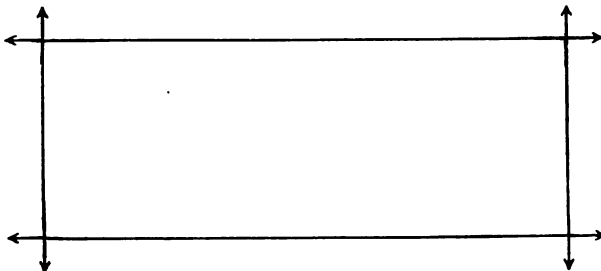
February 14.

“Tarry thou the Lord's leisure.”—*Psalm* xxvii.
16 (P. B.)

At the bottom of every leaf there is a cradle, and in it is an infant germ; and the winds will rock it, and the birds will sing to it all summer long, and next season it will unfold. So God is working for you, and carrying forward to the perfect development all the processes of your lives.

Father, I know that all my life
Is portioned out for me,
And the changes that will surely come,
I do not fear to see;
But I ask Thee for a present mind
Intent on pleasing Thee.

A. L. WARING.



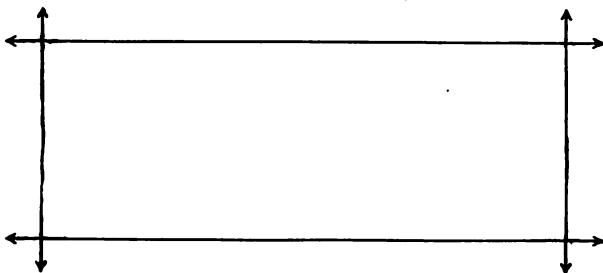
February 15.

"They that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened and heard it."—*Malachi* iv. 16.

It should become our daily purpose to make our human affections and friendships more thoroughly Christian, more worthy of the members of our loving Lord. So, when you are called for a little while to part, will "thoughts of good together done," be very very sweet and cheering to you, for Jesus' sake.—CANON JELF.

No fading, frail memorial give,
To soothe his soul when thou art gone,
But wreaths of hope for aye to live,
And thoughts of good together done.

JOHN KEBLE.



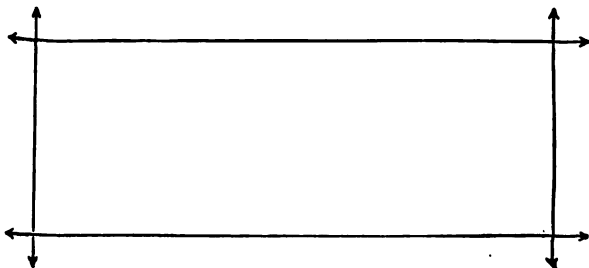
February 16.

“Boast not thyself of to-morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”—*Proverbs* xxvii. 1.

Enjoy the blessings of this day, if God sends them, and the evils of it bear patiently and sweetly; for this day is only ours; we are dead to yesterday, and we are not yet born to the morrow.—BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

Live for to-day! to-morrow's light
To-morrow's cares shall bring to sight;
Go sleep like closing flowers at night,
And Heaven thy morn will bless.

JOHN KEBLE.

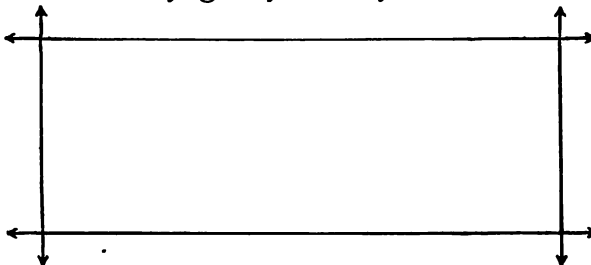


February 17.

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."—*Isaiah* xl. 31.

Waiting, as we must recognise and remember, is a sacrifice of self, a real martyrdom no less than working. To win the soul in patience, to bear the trial of delays, to watch for the dawn through the chill hours which precede it, is a witness to the powers of the unseen world, which the Spirit of God alone can make possible.—DR. WESTCOTT.

So praying still, and waiting on,
And pondering what the waiting meant,
This knowledge sweet at last I won,
And oh! the depth of my content!
My blessed task for every day
Is humbly, gladly to obey.—H. KIMBALI



February 18.

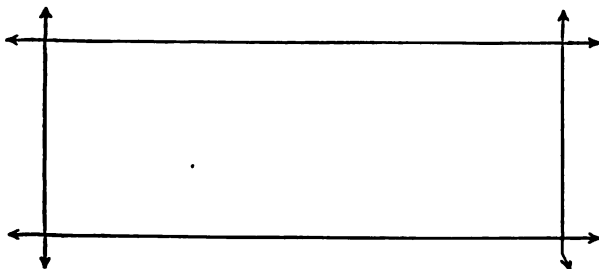
“It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man.”—*Psalms* cxviii. 8.

All sufficiency, immutability, and perfect faithfulness are proper to Jehovah. Man is not your rock. He has no stability, but what is derived, dependent, and uncertain. Learn therefore, to rest on God alone, and lean not too confidently on any mortal.—BAXTER.

Simple rule, and safest guiding,
Inward peace, and inward might,
Star upon our path abiding,
“Trust in God, and do the right.”

Some will hate thee, some will love thee,
Some will flatter, some will slight;
Cease from men, and look above thee,
“Trust in God, and do the right.”

NORMAN MACLEOD.



February 19.

“With us is the Lord our God to help us, and to fight our battles.”—*2 Chron.* xxxii. 8.

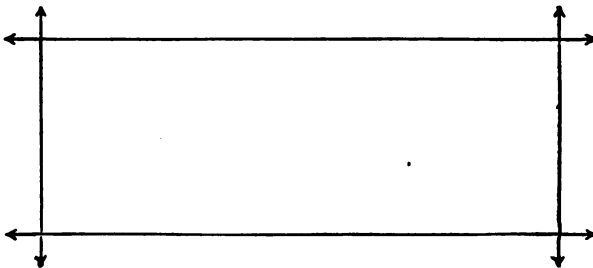
Draw thou but unto the standard of Jesu Christ, and the day shall be thine ; for victory follows that standard, and cannot be severed from it. Yea, though thou find the smarts of divers strokes, yet think that often : wounded soldier hath won the day ; believe and it shall be so with thee.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Let your drooping hearts be glad ;
March, in heavenly armour clad ;
Fight, nor think the battle long ;
Victory soon shall tune your song.

Onward then to battle move ;
More than conquerors ye shall prove ;
Though opposed by many a foe,
Christian soldiers, onward go.

H. KIRKE WHITE.



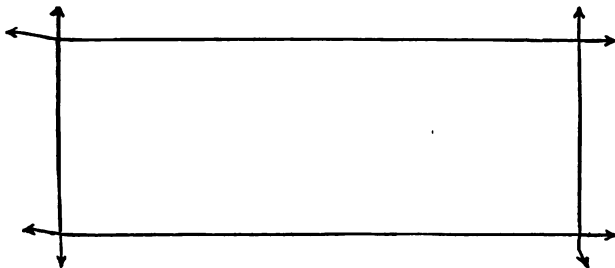
February 20.

“Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”—*St. Luke ii. 49.*

Great things, great opportunities of serving God, come but rarely, whereas little things, whereby our faithfulness is proved, occur perpetually. If you wait for some great thing, wherein to show your love to God, you may perchance wait all your life.—JEAN N. GROU.

To do our “Father’s business” here,
In humble reverence and fear,
Meekly upon His will to wait
In little things as well as great,
Contented in our lot to rest,
’Tis thus the Christian serves Him best.

J. S. B. MONSELL.

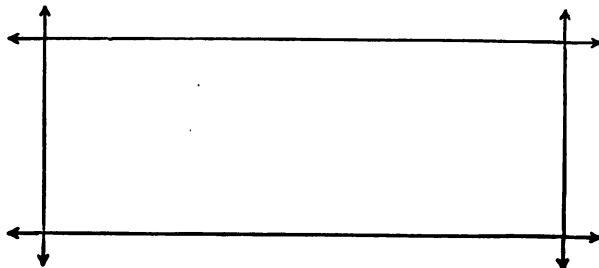


February 21.

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock ; if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.”
—*Rev.* iii. 20.

He is ever ready to come when the soul invites Him. So great is His love to be with us, that He awaits only our wish that He should enter more into us. He knocks at the door of our hearts by His Inspirations ; and what an entrance !—*DR. PUSEY.*

In the silent midnight watches
List—thy bosom door !
How it knocketh, knocketh, knocketh,
Knocketh evermore !
Say not, 'tis thy pulse's beating ;
'Tis thy heart of sin ;
'Tis thy Saviour knocks, and crieth,
Rise, and let Me in.—*A. C. COXE.*



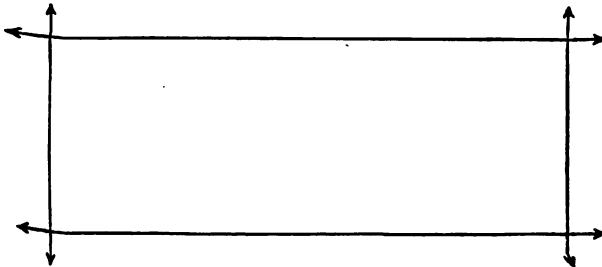
February 22.

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying.”—*Eph. iv. 29.*

One great use of words is, that we may edify others thereby. Moreover, all words—and not only those spoken in a religious assembly—are uttered *before God*.

DEAN GOULBURN.

Words are mighty, words are living
Serpents with their venomous stings,
Or bright angels, crowding round us,
With Heaven's light upon their wings ;
Every word has its own spirit,
True or false, that never dies,
Every word man's lips have uttered,
Echoes in God's skies.—A. A. PROCTER.



February 23.

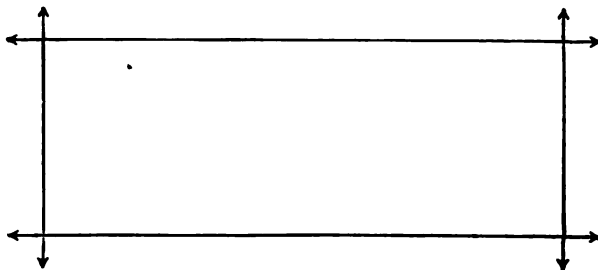
“Whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in My Name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.”
—*St. Mark ix. 41.* —

Perhaps at the last day, all that will remain worth recording of a life full of activity and zeal, will be those little deeds that were done solely beneath the eye of God.

From the French.

I in your care My brethren left,
Not willing ye should be bereft
Of waiting on your Lord.
The meanest offering ye can make,
A drop of water for love's sake,
In Heaven, be sure, is stored.

JOHN KEBLE.



February 24.

(S. Matthias' Day).

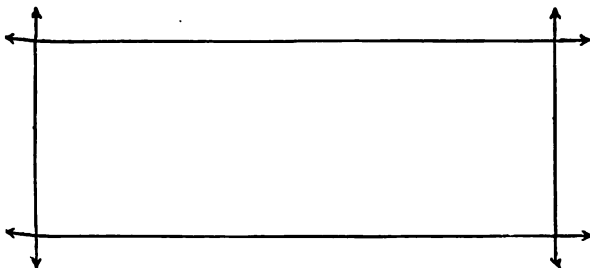
“Hold that fast which thou hast.”—*Rev.* iii. 11.

This is the only Saint's Day which is to be celebrated with mingled feelings of joy and pain. It records the fall as well as the election of an Apostle. What overpowering thoughts must have crowded on St. Matthias; his very election was a witness against himself if he did not fulfil it: and such will surely ours be in our degree. We take the place of others who have gone before, as Matthias did: let us then, as a church and as individuals, one and all, look to Him who alone can keep us from falling.

DR. NEWMAN.

Oh, by Thy love and anguish, Lord,
 And by Thy Life laid down,
 Grant that we fall not from Thy grace,
 Nor cast away our crown.

C. F. ALEXANDER.



February 25.

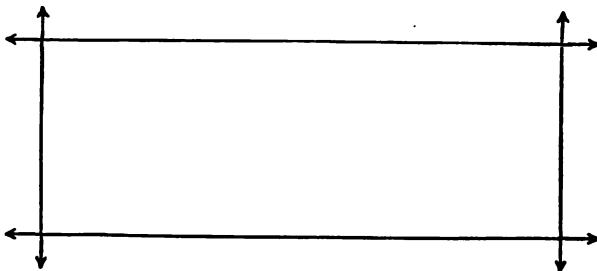
“Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three
but the greatest of these is charity.”—1 *Cor.* xiii. 13

“Charity” saith one, “is as the philosophers
stone, that turns all into gold.” It baptizeth
all the other virtues and makes them Chris-
tian. In a word, faith is the foundation
charity the building, which reacheth as high
as Heaven; and hope the pillar, or buttress
to uphold it.—REV. A. FARINDON.

Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost,
Taught by Thee, we covet most,
Of Thy gifts at Pentecost,
Holy, heavenly Love.

Faith and hope, and love we see
Joining hand in hand agree,
But the greatest of the three,
And the best, is Love.

BISHOP WORDSWORTH.



February 26.

“The joy of the Lord is your strength.”—*Neh.*
viii. 10.

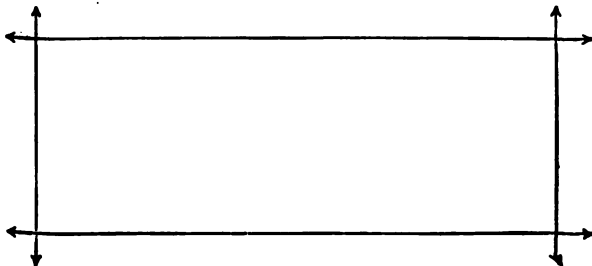
Beware of giving way ever so little to sadness, the enemy of all true devotion. What ought to sadden him who serves our dear Lord, who is our endless joy? Naught save sin should have the power to grieve and sadden us; and even that sorrow, if sin be duly resisted, will end in joy and consolation.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.

Jesus, Thou Joy of loving hearts,
Thou Fount of Life, Thou Light of men,
From the best bliss that earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to Thee again.

O Jesus, ever with us stay;
Make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away;
Shed o'er the world Thy holy light.

RAY PALMER, from ST. BERNARD.



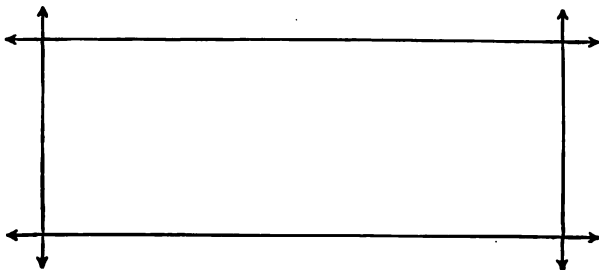
February 27.

“What I do, thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.”—*St. John* xiii. 7.

At last we learn to live on from day to day, doing each day's duties within the day, and believing that it is a righteous, as well as tender Hand that keeps the next day's page safely folded down.

Without murmur, uncomplaining,
In His Hand
Leave whatever thing thou canst not
Understand.
Though the world thy folly spurneth,
From thy faith in pity turneth,
Peace thy inmost soul shall fill,
Lying still.

C. R. HAGENBACH.



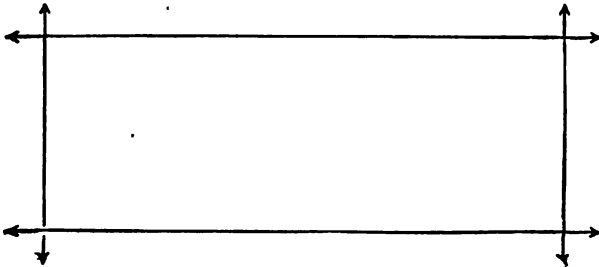
February 28.

“Let them also that love Thy name be joyful
in Thee.”—*Psalm v. 11.*

When there is love in the heart, there are
rainbows in the eyes, which cover every black
cloud with gorgeous hues.

Teach me Thy love to know,
That this new light, which now I see,
May both the work and workmen show ;
Then by a sunbeam I will climb to Thee.

GEORGE HERBERT.



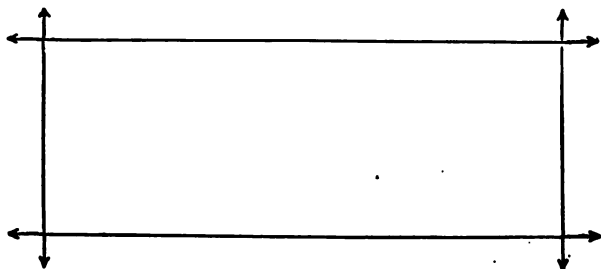
February 29.

“We will give ourselves continually to prayer.”
—*Acts vi. 4.*

You, that are daily exercised in holy converse with your Maker, hold on and grow not strange to Heaven, and let not your holy desires be extinguished for want of excitation. Prayer is your ascent to Heaven, your retirement from a world of dangers into the impregnable fortress where you are safe.

BAXTER.

Not seraph's wing for ever soaring,
Can pass the flight of souls adoring,
That nearer still, and nearer grow,
To th' unapproachèd Lord, once made for
them so low.—JOHN KEBLE.



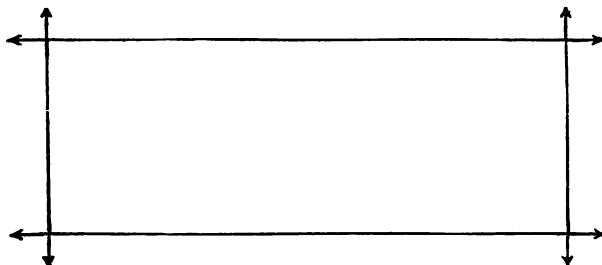
March 1.

"We are buried with Him by baptism into death; that henceforth we should not serve sin."—*Romans* vi. 4, 6.

By baptism are we made members of Him, who for us was crucified; and our life from baptism to our death should be a practice of the Cross, a learning to be crucified, a crucifixion of our passions, appetites, desires, wills, until, one by one, they be all nailed, and we have no will but the will of our Father which is in Heaven.—DR. PUSEY.

Amen; and therefore am I sworn His servant,
His sacred Heart through life to be my rest,
To watch His eye with adoration fervent,
Foe of His foes, and in His white robe drest.

JOHN KEBLE.



March 2.

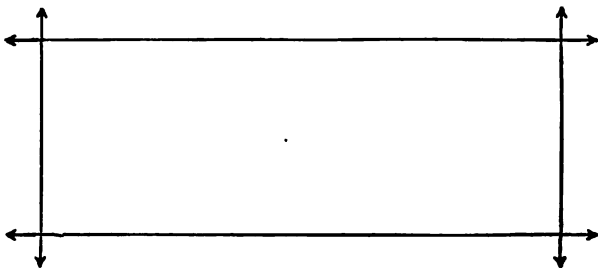
“The Father of Lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning.”—*St. James i. 17.*

Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear; rather look to them with full hope that, as they arise, God, whose you are, will deliver you out of them. Do not look forward to what may happen to-morrow; the same everlasting Father, who cares for you to-day, will take care of you to-morrow and every day.—*ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.*

Whate’er may change, in Him no change is seen,

A glorious Sun, that wanes not, nor declines;
Above the clouds and storms He walks serene,
And sweetly on His people’s darkness shines:
All may depart, I fret not, nor repine,
While I my Saviour’s am, while He is mine.

HENRY FRANCIS LYTE.



March 3.

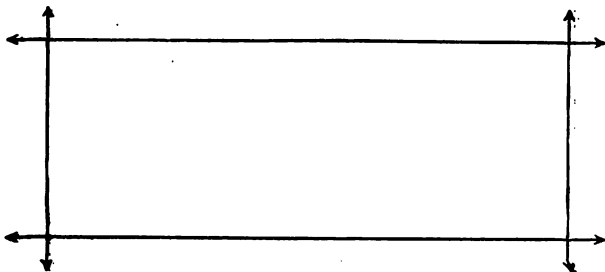
“Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.”—*Psalm lxxiii. 24.*

There is a blessed peace in looking for nothing but our daily task, and our portion of Christ's Cross, between this day and the appointed time when we shall fall asleep in Him.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

Yet if we will our Guide obey,
The dreariest path, the darkest way,
Shall issue out in heavenly day,

And we, on divers shores now cast,
Shall meet, our perilous voyage past,
All in our Father's House at last.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.



E

March 4.

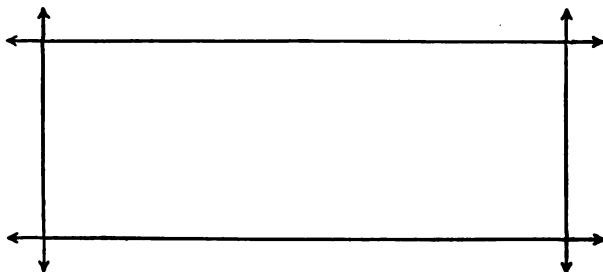
“Evening and morning and at noon will I pray,
and cry aloud, and He shall hear my voice.”—
Psalm lv. 17.

If you would be rich in all grace, be much in prayer; conversing with God assimilates the soul to Him, beautifies it with the beams of His holiness. It is prayer that brings all our supplies from Heaven, draws more grace out of God's Hand; it entertains and augments our friendship with God, raiseth the soul from earth, and purifies it wonderfully.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

O Lord, increase our faith and love,
That we may all Thy goodness prove,
And gain from Thy exhaustless store,
The fruits of prayer for evermore.

REV. SIR H. W. BAKER.

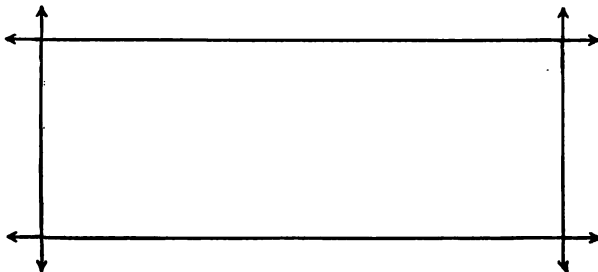


March 5.

“My God shall supply all your need.”—*Phil.* iv. 19.

God is all to thee :—if thou be hungry He is bread ; if thirsty, He is water ; if darkness, He is light ; if naked, He is a robe of Immortality.—ST. AUGUSTINE.

Christ is a path, if any be misled ;
He is a robe if any naked be ;
If any chance to hunger, He is bread ;
If any be a bondsman, He is free ;
If any be but weak, how strong is He ;
To dead men, life He is ; to sick men, health ;
To blind men, sight, and to the needy, wealth ;
A pleasure without loss ; a treasure without stealth.—GILES FLETCHER.



March 6.

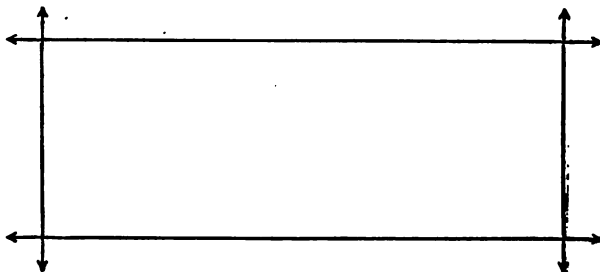
“Trust ye in the Lord for ever ; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.”—*Isaiah* xxvi. 4.

Never give up trusting in God, but fight on with a good courage, being convinced that in this warfare, he only loses the battle who ceases to trust in God.—LORENZO SCUPOLI.

Put thou thy trust in God,
In duty's path go on ;
Fix on His word thy steadfast eye,
So shall thy work be done.

Through waves, and clouds, and storms,
He gently clears thy way ;
Wait thou His time—thy darkest night
Shall end in brightest day.

PAUL GERHARDT.



March 7.

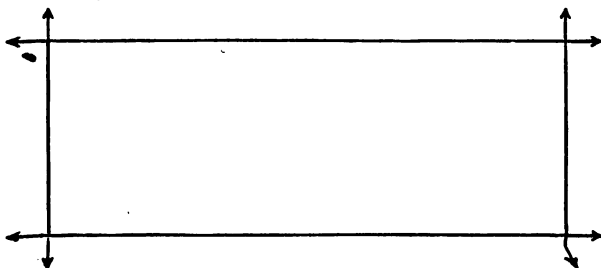
“The darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.”—1 *St. John* ii. 8.

Let us not make believe that it is dark, let us open our eyes and follow the Light where it guides us. The employments of this life are but as dreams, but the Light from Heaven, the Light of Christ, is no dream ; it is the only real thing, and the way in which it offers to guide you is the true and only way of peace.

REV. J. KEBLE.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s Light:
Come unto Me, thy dawn shall rise,
And all thy days be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In Him my Star, my Sun ;
And in that Light of Life I’ll walk
Till travelling days are done.

H. BONAR.



March 8.

“Serve the Lord with gladness.”—*Psalm c. 2.*

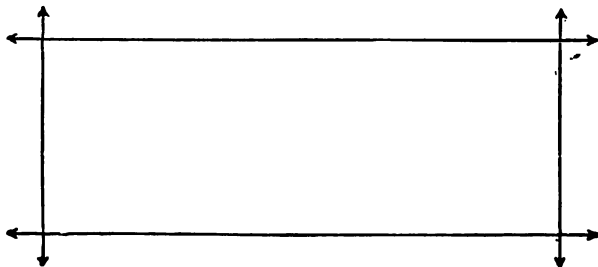
We must not offer to God except of our best. It must be the noblest, as for Him who is noble beyond word or thought. It must be the happiest of services. For what is God but infinite beatitude and eternal joy? His life is joy. All that is bright and happy comes from Him.—F. W. FABER.

“Serve God and be cheerful.” Look upward!

God’s countenance scatters the gloom,
And the soft summer light of His Heaven
Shines over the cross and the tomb.

“Serve God and be cheerful.” Live nobly,
Do right and do good, make the best
Of the gifts and the work put before you,
And to God, without fear, leave the rest.

WILLIAM NEWELL.

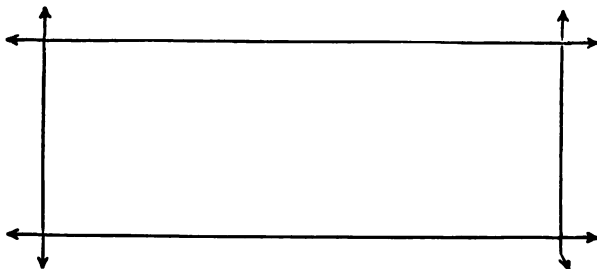


March 9.

“Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things.”—*St. Matt.* xxv. 23.

God requires a faithful fulfilment of the merest trifle given us to do, rather than the most ardent aspirations for things for which we are not called.—ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.

Do the duty Love hath set thee,
Do whatever comes to hand;
Sin and sorrow in ten thousand
Shapes and forms around thee stand,
Do it promptly, do it bravely,
Thy best warrant, His command.



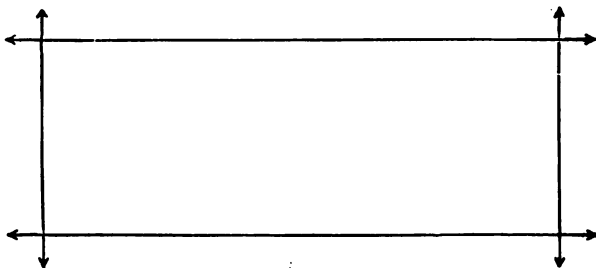
March 10.

“I am not alone, because the Father is with me.”
—*St. John* xvi. 32.

What a different thing is life, when we have found out our Father; and if we have work, it is beneath His eye, and if we play, it is in the light and encouragement of His smile.

F. W. FABER.

Thou art with me, O my Father,
In the changing scenes of life;
In loneliness of spirit,
And in weariness of strife.
My sufferings—my comfortings,
Alternate at Thy Will,
I trust Thee, O my Father;
I trust Thee, and am still.



March 11.

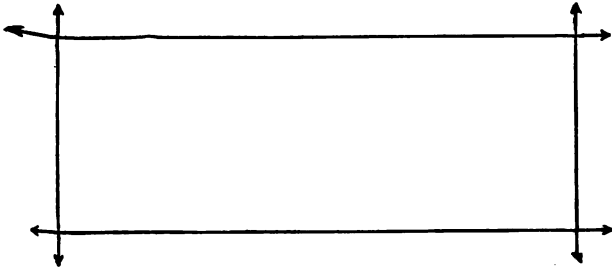
“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”—*Col. iii. 2.*

Be not taken up with an earthly future, if thou wouldst look beyond the veil and behold Him who is invisible.—DR. PUSEY.

Go up, go up, my heart,
Dwell with thy God above,
For here thou canst not rest
Nor here give out thy love.

Let not thy love flow out
To things so soiled and dim ;
Go up to Heaven and God,
Take up thy love to Him.

H. BONAR.



March 12.

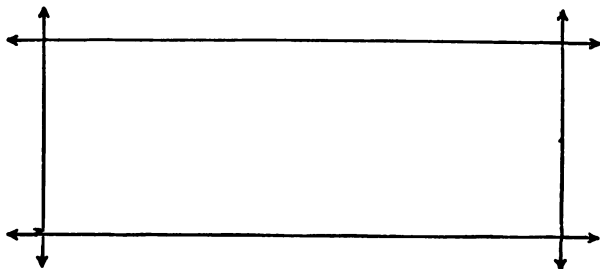
“Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.”—*Isaiah* lx. 1.

When He shines upon any soul, He expects that soul to drink in His ways, and grow bright by them, and by degrees to be conformed to His own likeness.—REV. J. KEBLE.

Walk in the Light, and thou shalt own
Thy darkness past away,
Because on thee the Light hath shone,
In which is perfect day.

Walk in the Light, and follow on
Till faith be turned to sight,
Where, in divine communion,
God is Himself the Light.

BERNARD BARTON.



March 13.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”—*Phil.* ii. 5.

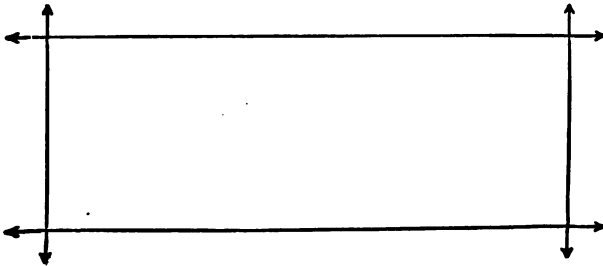
Man in his life becomes so much the more perfect and happy in proportion as he has his mind and affections more thoroughly conformed to the pattern of that most blessed and perfect life.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Where shall we find a perfect life whereby
To shape our lives for all eternity?

* * * * *

Be Christ's the fair and perfect life whereby
We shape our lives for all eternity.

C. RICHARDSON.



March 14.

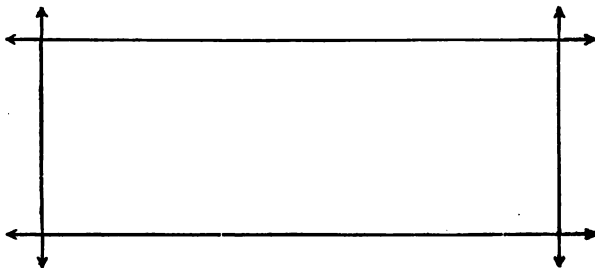
“Under His wings shalt thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler.”—*Psalm xci. 4.*

What can fall out by chance to him who is ever under the wing of the Almighty? Or what can he lose who hath denied all unto himself, and himself, too, in every respect and relation to the world! This is our provision, and this is our security; he that will lose nothing must learn to have nothing.

REV. A. FARINDON.

Simply strive to do His will,
Keep self under, and be still.

J. S. B. MONSELL.

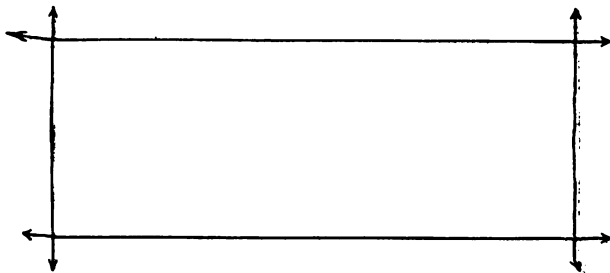


March 15.

“Perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”—2 *Cor.* vii. 1.

Little by little, as we gain, by the grace of God, victory over our besetting sin, we rise to a higher level.—CANON JELF.

Nobler yet and purer
I would be in mind,
Every day still dearer
All my duties find.
Suffering still and doing,
To my lot resigned,
And to God subduing
Heart and will and mind.
Always rising higher
Out of clouds and night,
Always drawing nearer
To God's blessed light.
Light serene and holy
Where my soul may rest
Purified and lowly,
Sanctified and blest.



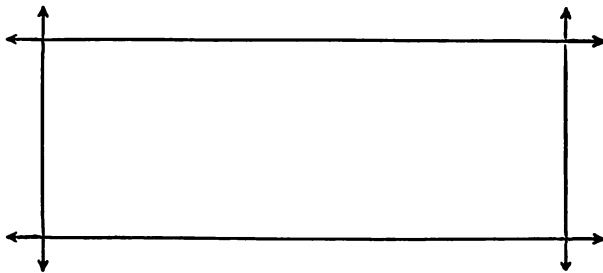
March 16.

“We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”—*Romans* viii. 37.

Real glory springs from the quiet conquest of ourselves, and without that the conqueror is naught but the first slave.

Not by the martyr's death alone
The saint his crown in Heaven hath won ;
There is a triumph robe on high
For bloodless fields of victory.
What though he was not called to feel
The Cross, or flame, or torturing wheel,
Yet daily to the world he died,
His flesh through grace he crucified.

ISAAC WILLIAMS, *from the Latin.*



March 17.

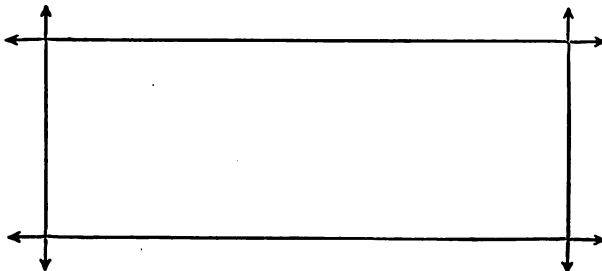
“ Let us not be weary in well doing.”—*Gal.* vi. 9.

It requires far more vigour and energy to conquer one's self in little things than in some great matter, which, occurring perhaps but once in a life-time, calls forth all one's courage and resolution, whereas little things are continually pressing on us, requiring a sustained effort. It is easier to make one rare, great effort than to keep up the ceaseless struggle with self, in what are called little things.

GUILLORÈ.

He knows the bitter, weary way,
The endless striving day by day,
The souls that weep, the souls that pray,
He knows!

MARIAN LONGFELLOW.



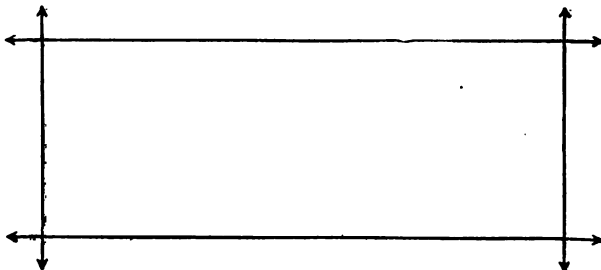
March 18.

“Pray one for another.”—*St. James* v. 16.



We cannot be Christians without intercessory prayer. For we should be breaking a primary law of love, which our Lord has given us. He has hedged us in by His Prayer which He has given us. We cannot say an “Our Father” without doing it, at least with our lips. We must have emptied our blessed Lord’s Prayer of its meaning, before we can have ceased intercessory prayer.—*DR. PUSEY.*

In His dear name, to Thee we pray
For all who err and go astray,
For sinners, wheresoe’er they be,
Who do not serve and honour Thee.
That so from Angel-hosts above
May rise a sweeter song of love,
And we, with all the Blest, adore
Thy name, O God, for evermore.

REV. SIR H. W. BAKER.



March 19.

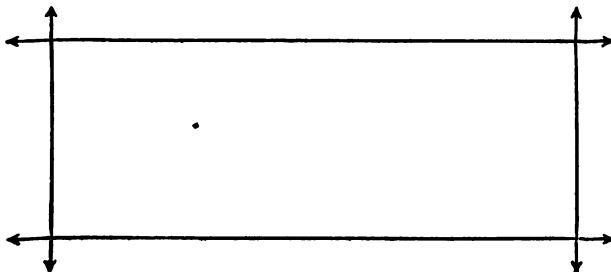
——
 “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all
 thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy
 might.”—*Deut.* vi. 5. ——

Oh, if we could be as simple and as single in
 our desires as God! He only wants our love,
 and more of it, and more, and more. Why
 should we not also want one thing only, to
 love Him, and to love Him more, and more,
 and more? Surely if we prayed only for that
 after which He longs so earnestly, our prayer
 would not wait for its answer long.

—— F. W. FABER.

Lord, it is my chief complaint
 That my love is weak and faint;
 Yet I love Thee, and adore;
 Oh, for grace to love Thee more.

W. COWPER.

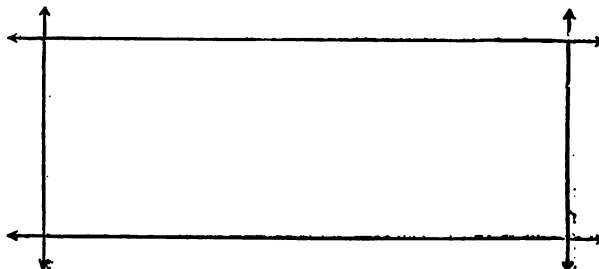


March 20.

"Godliness with contentment is great gain."—
1 *Tim.* vi. 6.

Let there be within us the clear shining of
a contented mind, and the darkest clouds will
never want for a rainbow.—REV. J. R. VERNON

If peace be in the heart,
The wildest winter storm is full of solemn
beauty,
The midnight lightning-flash but shows the
path of duty,
Each living creature tells some new and
joyous story,
The very trees and stones all catch a ray
of glory,
If peace be in the heart.—C. R. RICHARDSON



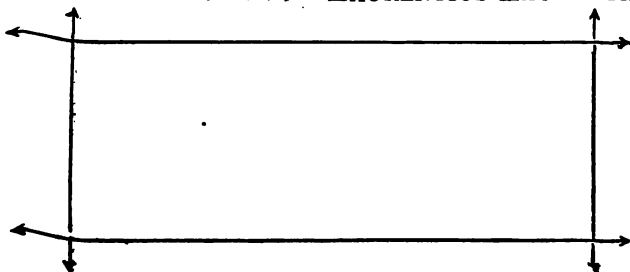
March 21.

“Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God.”—*Phil.* i. 11.

Remember then to beautify thy inward man, and fill it with the glory of God, that it may be as a gallery hung round with the fairest pictures and representations of His glory, those virtues and perfections which will make thee like Him; that thou mayest be nothing else but the praise and glory of thy Maker.—REV. A. FARINDON.

For if Christ be born within,
 Soon that likeness shall appear,
 Which the heart had lost through sin,
 God's own image fair and clear—
 And the soul serene and bright
 Mirrors back His heavenly light.

LAURENTIUS LAURENTI.

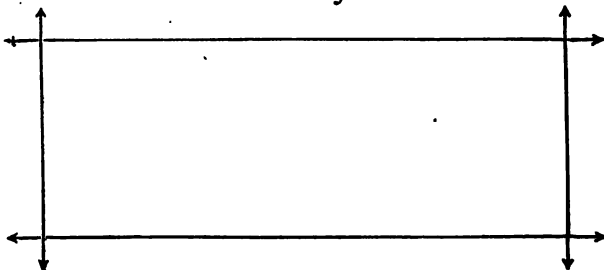


March 22.

—
“This also we wish, even your perfection.”—
2 Cor. xiii. 9.
—

Though men fall short of their aim, yet it is good to aim high, they shall shoot so much the higher, though not full so high as they aim. Thus we ought to be setting the state of perfection in our eye, resolving not to rest content below that, and to come as near it as we can.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Higher! higher! to aspire;
That is all my soul's desire,
Nearer to the Light and Love
In which saints and angels move,
Nearer to the glorious Throne,
And to Him who sits thereon,
To perfection, nigher, nigher,
To my Saviour, higher! higher!
J. S. B. MONSELL.

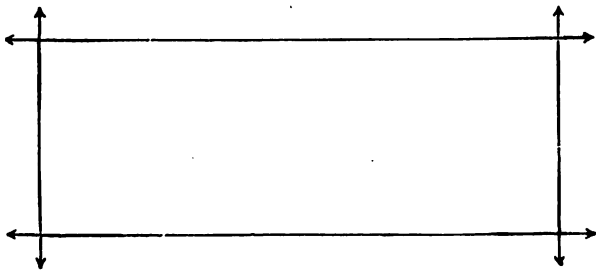


March 23.

“Walk before Me, and be thou perfect.”—*Genesis*
vii. 1.

Perfection is being, not doing—it is not to effect an act, but to achieve a character. In Christian life, every moment and every act is an opportunity for doing the one thing, of *becoming* Christ-like. Every day is full of most impressive experience. Every temptation to evil temper which can assail us to-day will be an opportunity to decide the question whether we shall gain the calmness and the rest of Christ, or whether we shall be tossed by the restlessness and agitation of the world.—REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

We rise by the things that are under our feet ;
By what we have mastered of good and gain ;
By the pride deposed, and the passion slain,
And the vanquished ills that we hourly meet.



March 24.

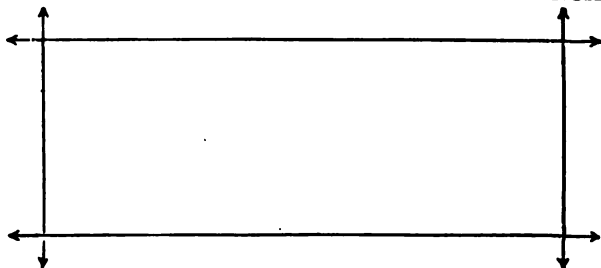
"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."—*St. James* v. 16.

Every good prayer knocketh at Heaven for a blessing, but an importunate prayer pierceth it, though hard as brass, and makes way for itself into the ears of the Almighty. And as it ascends lightly up, carried with the wings of faith, so it comes ever laden down again upon our heads. In my prayers, my thoughts shall not be guided by my words; but my words shall follow my thoughts.

BISHOP HALL.

Say, what is prayer, when it is prayer indeed?
The mighty utterance of a mighty need.
The man is praying, who doth press with might
Out of his darkness into God's own light.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.



March 25.

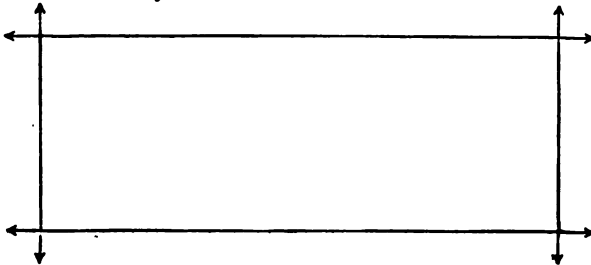
(Feast of the Annunciation.)

“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy word.”—*St. Luke* i. 38.

Wherever the calls of God meet us, and in whatever form, there is but one way of meeting them, which carries with it blessing and hope; the way of humble and honest acceptance, of unfeigned self-dedication, of modest and yet resolute determination, of which the highest and purest expression is the answer to the most wonderful call ever made to man.—DEAN CHURCH.

Maiden, well thou know'st the story
How the Holy Babe was born;
How that Virgin's crown of glory
May no other brow adorn.

But His handmaid still He seeketh,
Sends His Angel e'en to thee,
Only say thou when He speaketh,
“May His word be done in me.”



March 26.

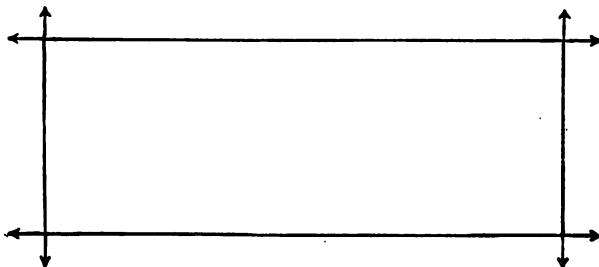
"Now our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God, even our Father . . . stablish you in every good word and work."—2 *Thess.* ii. 16, 17.

Actions must always be the heart's language. Be suspicious of the reality of any feeling which has never gone out in an action. Painstaking, faithful, hard work is the vent of a full heart, without which the feelings will grow first restless, then oppressed, and then dying.—REV. J. VAUGHAN.

Labour is life ! 'tis the still water faileth ;
Idleness ever despaireth, bewaileth ;
Keep the watch wound, for the dark rust assaileth ;
Flowers droop and die in the stillness of noon.

Work for some good, be it ever so slowly,
Cherish some flower, be it ever so lowly ;
Labour—all labour is noble and holy ;
Let thy great deeds be thy prayer to thy God.

F. S. OSGOOD.

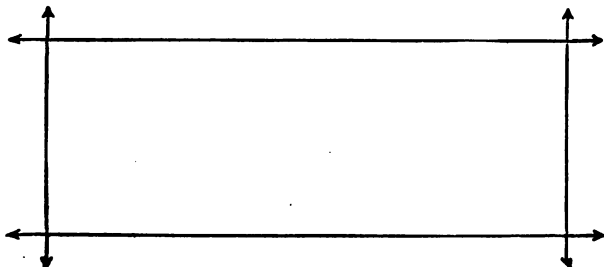


March 27.

"Let the peace of God rule in your hearts."—
Col. iii. 15.

In the midst of the many hopes and fears, doubts and distresses that are often in the heart, how wonderful it is, that, on the whole, there is peace there—peace like some rock that the heaving and surging waves hide for a moment from the eye, but which yet abides, fixed and unshaken for ever.—T. V. FOSBERY.

We ask Thy peace, O Lord!
Through storm, and fear, and strife,
To light and guide us on
Through a long and struggling life;
While no success or gain
Shall cheer the desperate fight,
Or nerve what the world calls our wasted
night:—
Yet passing through the darkness, to the light.
A. A. PROCTER.



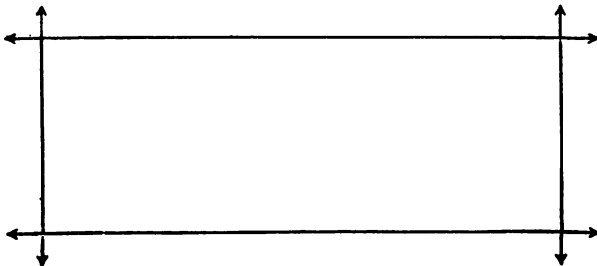
March 28.

“Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”—1 *Cor.* x. 31.

In whatever comes upon him, the Christian will feel that in attending to his own calling, he will be meeting Christ; while performing it, he will see Christ revealed to his soul, amid the ordinary actions of the day, as by a sort of sacrament. Thus he will take his worldly business as a gift from Him, and will love it as such.—DR. NEWMAN.

Christian! thy God deems nothing due
But what He gives thee grace to do,
And nought as worthy does He take
Save what is done for Christ's dear sake :
With such pure trust, and simple aim,
Thy lowliest deed His smile may claim.

J. S. B. MONSELL.

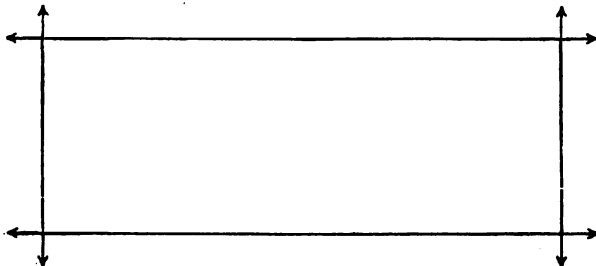


March 29.

“I am continually with Thee: Thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with Thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.”—*Psalm lxxiii.* 23, 24.

God will uphold you with His hand, and if He should let you stumble it will only be to show you that without Him you would fall altogether, and to teach you to hold His hand the tighter.—ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.

The throng is great, my Father! many a doubt
And fear and danger compass me about,
And foes oppress me sore. I cannot stand
Or go alone. O Father! take my hand,
And through the throng
Lead safe along
Thy child!—H. M. C.



March 30.

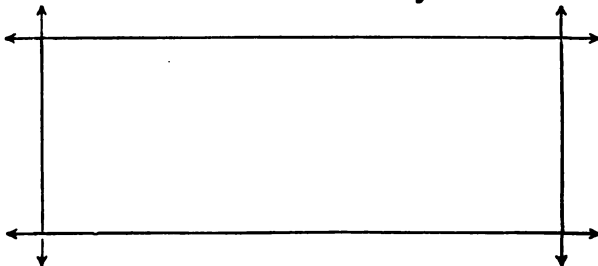
“Jesus called a little child unto Him and set him in the midst of them.”—*St. Matt. xviii. 2.*

Nothing draws towards God, reveals God, like the faith and candour of the child, that heart so guileless and so eager, which wants to get everything because it gives its whole self, and to know everything because it has nothing to hide; that voice so full of sweet and artless music, which speaks to man as man should always speak to God; that calm, mild, bright and open look which dives without an effort into the secrets of Heaven.

LACORDAIRE.

As a little child relies
On a care beyond his own,
Knows he's neither strong nor wise,
Fears to stir a step alone;
Let me thus with Thee abide
As my Father, Guard, and Guide.

J. NEWTON.



March 31.

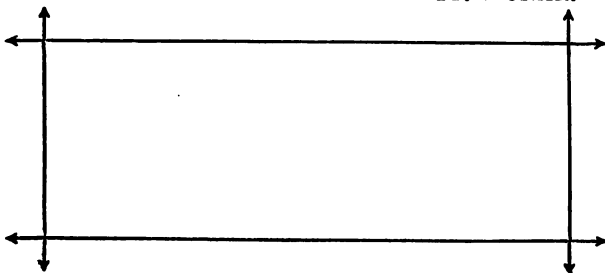
"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."—*Phil.* ii. 15.

Every man is to be to those around him a living preacher of the power of the Redeemer. Those who mix with him are to feel that he is acting on high motives; that there is nothing in him that is untrue, nothing impure; they are to feel that he has learnt the law of brotherhood which binds all men together, and perceived the special charge that has been laid upon himself.

BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

Thou must be true thyself,
If thou the truth would'st teach;
Thy soul must overflow, if thou
Another's soul would'st reach.

H. BONAR.



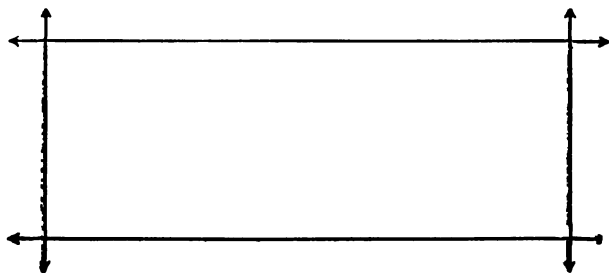
April 1.

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above.”—*Col.* iii. 1.

And herein consisteth the excellency, the very life and essence of Christian religion—to exalt the soul, to draw it back from mixing with these things below, and lift it up above the highest heaven, to unite it to its proper object, to make that which was the breath of God, breathe nothing but God, think of nothing, desire nothing, seek for nothing but from above, from whence it had its beginning.

REV. A. FARINDON.

Jesu, we in Thee are risen, shed on us Thy quickening grace,
Rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of Thy face,
That with hearts in Heaven dwelling, we on earth may fruitful be,
And by Angel-hands be gathered safe for evermore with Thee.—BISHOP WORDSWORTH.



April 2.

“The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.”—*Psalm xxix.* 10 (P. B.)

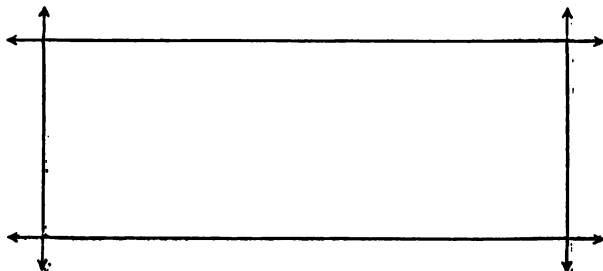
That is not peace from above to have everything according to our human and natural wishes ; but to be in favour with God, that is peace. Whoever seeks to avoid all this world's adversity can never find peace, but he only who has resolved all his affections, and placed them in the hand of God.

BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,
Our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife ;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict
cease,

Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

JOHN ELLERTON.



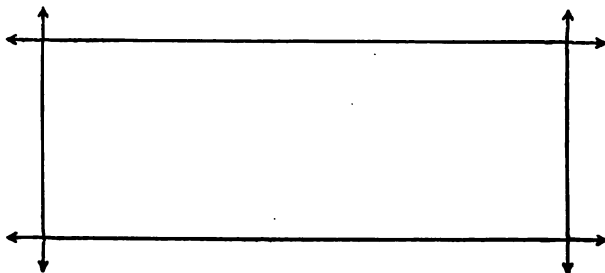
April 3.

“The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long.”—*Deut.* xxxiii. 12.

Jesus never forsakes a soul which has placed its trust in Him. He takes especial care of it, watches continually over it, carries it in weakness, answers its prayers, anticipates all its desires, softens all its sorrows. Give up thyself then to this trust, and whatever may befall thee, have recourse to it.—PINART.

Thou art as much His care, as if beside
Nor man, nor angel, lived in Heaven or earth;
Thou art thy Saviour's darling—seek no more.

JOHN KEBLE.



April 4.

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.”—*St. James* i. 17.

Who hath adorned the heavens with stars ?
Who hath stored the air with fowl, the waters
with fish, the earth with plants and flowers ?
But what are all these, but a small spark of
divine beauty ?—*S. BONAVENTURA.*

He only is the maker.

Of all things near and far,

He paints the wayside flower,

He lights the evening star ;

The winds and waves obey Him,

By Him the birds are fed,

Much more to us His children

He gives our daily bread.

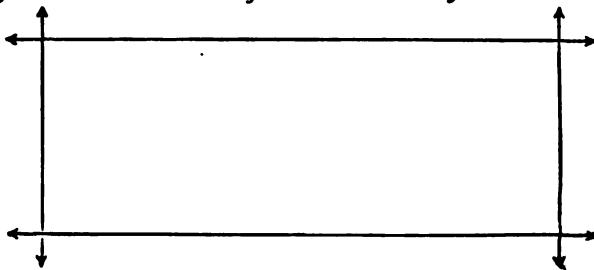
All good things around us

Are sent from Heaven above ;

Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord

For all His Love.

JANE M. CAMPBELL from German of Claudius.



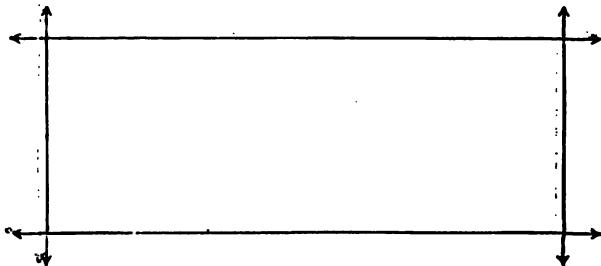
April 5.

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man.”—*Eph.* iv. 13.

To obtain the gift of holiness is the work *of a life*. Be you content with nothing short of perfection; exert yourself day by day to grow in knowledge and grace; that, if so be, you may at length attain to the presence of Almighty God.—DR. NEWMAN.

Here faith is ours, and heavenly hope,
And grace to lead us higher;
But there are perfectness, and peace,
Beyond our best desire—
Oh, by Thy love and anguish, Lord,
And by Thy life laid down,
Grant that we fall not from Thy grace,
Nor cast away our crown.

C. F. ALEXANDER.



April 6.

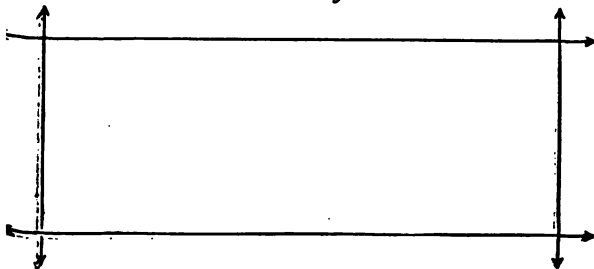
“Let the righteous be glad ; let them rejoice before God ; yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.”—*Psalm lxxviii. 3.*

There are souls in the world which have the gift of finding joy everywhere, and of leaving it behind them when they go. Their influence is an inevitable gladdening of the heart. They give light without meaning to shine. These bright hearts have a great work to do for God,—F. W. FABER.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us ;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ill
In this world and the next.

CATHERINE WINKWORTH.

From the German of MARTIN RINKART.

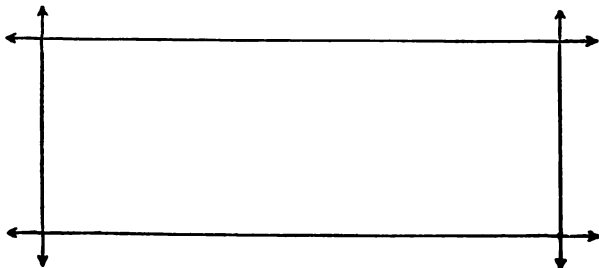


April 7.

“The Lord of peace himself give you peace
always by all means.”—2 *Thess.* iii. 16.

Peace such as God gives is not destroyed
even amidst the heaviest storms; and see
how it avails under the common circumstances
of life! What is it that gives real, abiding
cheerfulness to the day? What is it that
makes the task so easy, the labour so light?
What is it that spreads itself all around us as
a tranquil atmosphere, but the influence of
peace?—T. V. FOSBERY.

Would'st thou possess this peace; be still, be
Peace with the pure abides, [low;
Yea, all the humble, all the gentle, know
The shelter where she hides;
Rooted in patience, her fair buds to flowers
shall grow.



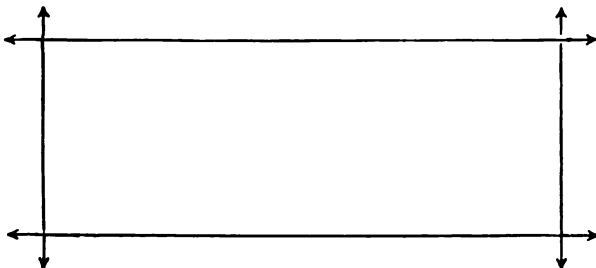
April 8.

“Put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”—*Col. iii. 14.*

We should look on others as God looks on us, because Christ is in them, as He is in us. It is His presence alike in them and us which forms a true spiritual relationship. If this earnest life were sustained, it would tell on all our common intercourse; there would be a considerateness, a forgiveness, a forbearance, a fellowship of kindness ever replenished at the same sources of the hidden life, quickening all alike.—Rev. T. T. CARTER.

Oh! might we all our lineage prove,
Give and forgive, do good and love,
By soft endearments in kind strife
Lightening the load of daily life!

JOHN KEBLE.



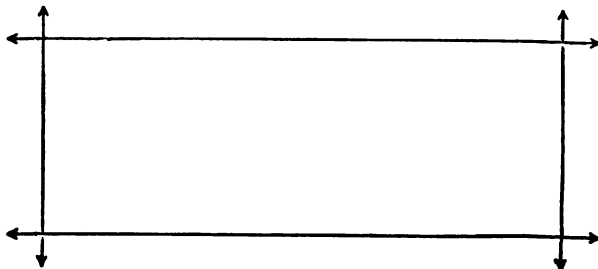
April 9.

“Men ought always to pray.”—*St. Luke* xviii. 1.

There should be no time at which a secret prayer should be considered out of place, or considered impossible. As there is no moment, however sacred, at which the devil does not sometimes fling his dart at us; so there should be no moment in all the day, at which the devil should be safe, as some old book says, from having a dart flung at him, in the shape of a prayer.—REV. ARTHUR FABER.

Restraining prayer, we cease to fight,
Prayer makes the Christian's armour bright;
And Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees.

W. COWPER.



April 10.

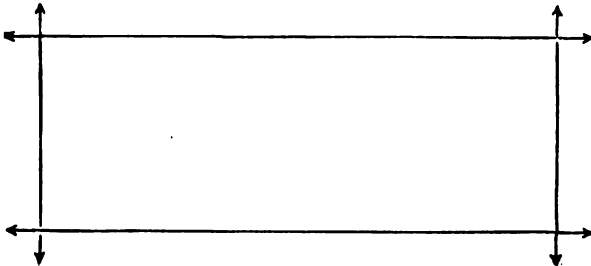
“Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.”

“Lead me in thy truth, and teach me.”—*Psalm*
xxv. 1, 5.

Learn to commend thy daily acts to God,
so shall the dry every-day duties of common
life be steps to Heaven, and lift thy heart
hither.—DR. PUSEY.

Be Thou our guide and helper,
O Jesu Christ, we pray;
So may we well approach Thee,
If Thou wilt be the Way:
Thou very Truth, hast promised
To help us in our strife,
Food of the weary pilgrim,
Eternal source of life.

REV. V. S. S. COLES.



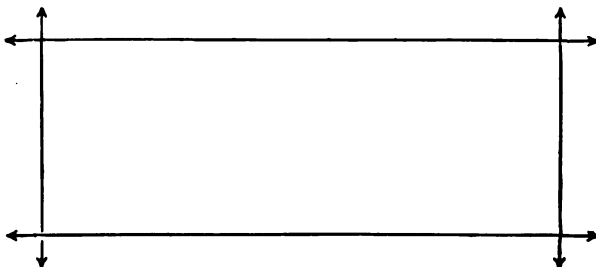
April 11.

“Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My Father, thou art the guide of my youth?”—*Jer.* iii. 4.

Blessed are they who give the flower of their days and their strength of soul and body to Him; blessed are they who in their youth turn to Him who gave His life for them, and would fain give it to them, and implant it in them, that they may live for ever. Blessed are they who resolve—come good, come evil, come sunshine, come tempest, come honour, come dishonour—that He shall be their Lord and Master, their King and God! They will come to a perfect end, and to peace at the last.—DR. NEWMAN.

Thine for ever! Thou our Guide,
All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiven,
Lead us, Lord, from earth to Heaven.

MARY F. MAUDE.



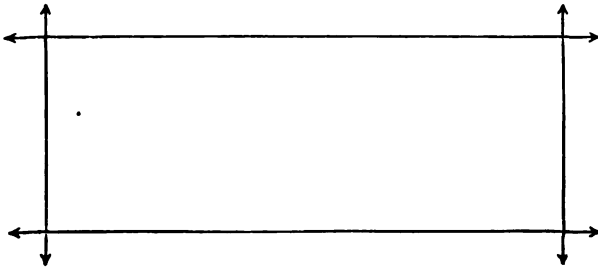
April 12.

“Pray without ceasing.”—1 *Thess.* v. 17.

Are you full of peace? Pray! Prayer will preserve it to you. Are you tempted? Pray! Prayer will sustain you. Have you fallen? Pray! Prayer will raise you. Are you discouraged? Pray! Prayer will reassure and comfort you.—*From the French.*

The lifting of the heart in prayer
Sheds sunshine on the soul.

REV. J. S. B. MONSELL.



April 13.

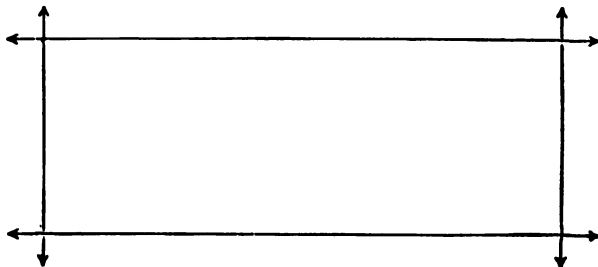
“God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”—*Romans v. 8.*

Though the reflections of sin are dark and long, yet the Shadow of the Cross lengthens out to cover them all. Be under the eye of Jesus as you look back. Keep close to Christ crucified when you think of mis-spent moments and of careless years.—CANON JELF.

While on Thy dear Cross we gaze,
Mourning o'er our sinful ways,
Turn our sadness into praise.

Draw us to Thy wounded side
Whence there flowed the healing tide,
There our sins and sorrows hide.

REV. R. H. BAYNES.



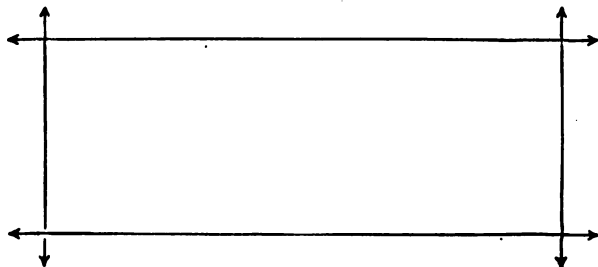
April 14.

“Thou desirest truth in the inward parts.”—
Psalm li. 6.

Not only in word, but in look, tone, act,
manner, be true to your fellow-men.

LANDELS.

Think truly, and thy thoughts
Shall the world's famine feed ;
Speak truly, and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed ;
Live truly, and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed.—H. BONAR.



April 15.

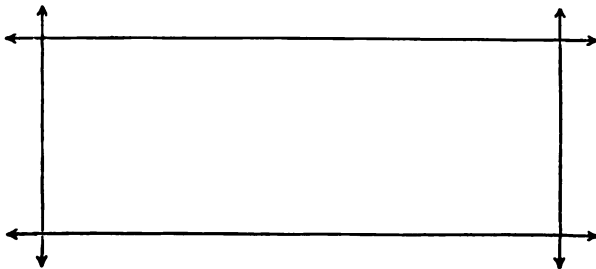
“If God be for us, who can be against us.”—
Romans viii. 31.

If we would endeavour like brave men to stand in the battle, surely we should feel the assistance of God from Heaven. For He who giveth us occasion to fight to the end that we may get the victory, is ready to succour those that fight, and that trust in His grace.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

An arm of flesh must fail
In such a strife as this;
He only can prevail
Whose arm immortal is :
'Tis Heaven itself the strength must yield
And weapons fit for such a field.
And Heaven supplies them too ;
The Lord who never faints,
Is greater than the foe,
And He is with His saints :
Thus arm'd they venture to the fight ;
Thus arm'd they put their foes to flight.

T. KELLY.



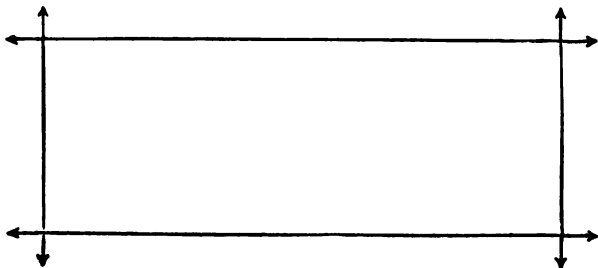
April 16.

“The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.”

“Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.”—*Psalm xxxiii. 5, 22.*

There is dew in one flower, and not in another, because one opens its cup and takes it in, while the other closes itself, and the drops run off. God rains His goodness and mercy as widespread as the dew, and if we lack them, it is because we will not open our hearts to receive them.

Sun and shield alike Thou art,
Guide and guard my erring heart;
Grace and glory flow from Thee,
Shower, O shower them, Lord, on me.
H. F. LYTE.



April 17.

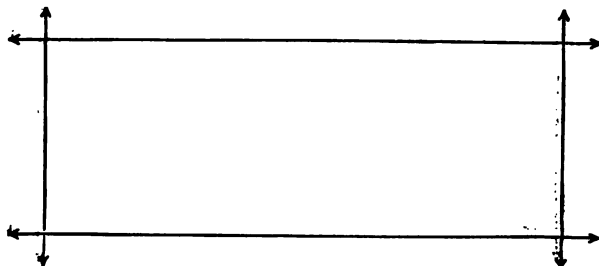
“Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”—*Col. iii. 17.*

He will accept, He will bless thy steadfast and loving labour. Christ redeemed thee from the curse of guilt, from the power of sin, that thou, by quietness, by sobriety, by useful and Christian industry, mightest shew forth the praises of Him who called thee out of darkness into His marvellous Light.—DR. NEWMAN.

Before the Cross of Him who died
Behold, I prostrate fall;
Let every sin be crucified
And Christ be *All in All*.

Let every thought, and work, and word,
To Thee be ever given,
Then Life shall be Thy service, Lord,
And Death the gate of Heaven.

MATTHEW BRIDGES.

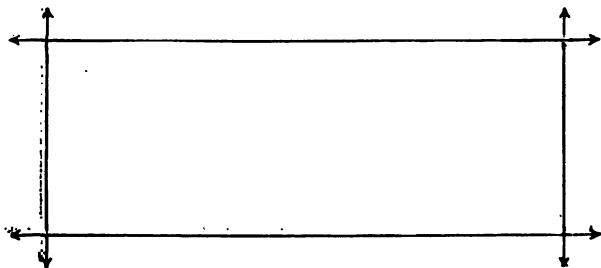


April 18.

“This commandment have we from Him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.”—I *John* iv. 21.

Christian charity is friendship to all the world; and when friendships were the noblest things in the world, charity was little, like the sun drawn in at a chink, or his beams drawn into the centre of a burning glass; but Christian charity is friendship expanded like the face of the sun when it mounts above the eastern hills.—BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

So is it with true Christian hearts;
Their mutual share in Jesus' blood
An everlasting bond imparts
Of holiest brotherhood.—JOHN KEEBLE.



April 19.

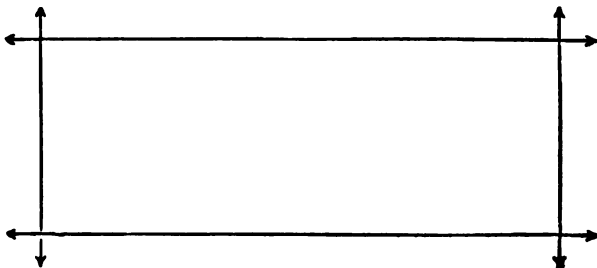
“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith ;
prove your own selves.”—2 *Cor.* xiii. 5.

Meditate daily on the things of eternity,
and by the grace of God, do something daily,
which thou wouldest wish to have done when
that day cometh.—DR. PUSEY.

Sum up at night what thou hast done by day,
And in the morning what thou hast to do ;
Dress and undress thy soul ; mark the decay
And growth of it. If with thy watch that too
Bedown, then wind up both. Since we shall be
Most surely judged, make thy accounts agree.

In brief, acquit thee bravely ; play the man
Look not on pleasures as they come, but go ;
Defer not the least virtue ; Life's poor span
Make not an ell by trifling in thy woe.
If thou do ill, the joy fades, not the pains ;
If well, the pain doth fade, the joy remains.

GEORGE HERBERT.



April 20.

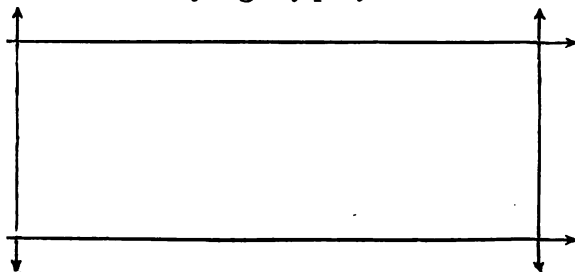
‘Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only.’
St. James i. 22.

Our actions speak more effectually than
r words. The speech of the daily life has
more persuasive eloquence than the speech
the tongue.—ST. BERNARD.

Waste not thy life in idle dreams
Of what that life should be ;
But live it—use it—for it teems
With tasks for thee and me.

Talk—it is easy—dreams are sloth,
Mere wishes idler still ;
Thy heart and hand, God wants them both,
To love, and do His will.

Do with that earnest faith, whose creed
Mere words could ne’er declare,
Spoken in every daily deed,
And every nightly prayer.—H. BONAR.



H

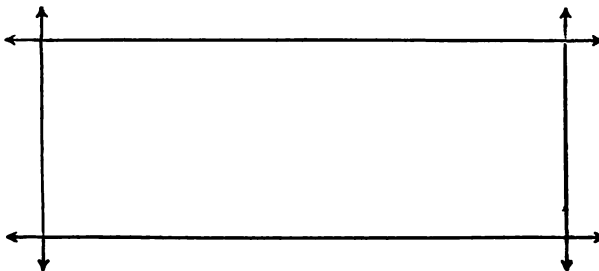
April 21.

“Thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.”—*St. Luke* xiv. 14.

Works of mercy, even the meanest, performed, or intended to any of His living members, are as the sweet odours which the holy women brought on the first Easter morning, to anoint the lifeless members of His natural body. They may not perhaps be wanted for the particular purpose, but the willing mind which brings them will not lose its reward; it thought to do a little good, to satisfy a kind feeling on earth, and God will find a recompense for it in Heaven.

REV. J. KEBLE

The look of sympathy, the gentle word,
Spoken so low that only one heart heard,
The secret act of pure self-sacrifice,
Unseen by man, but precious in God's eyes
These are not lost.

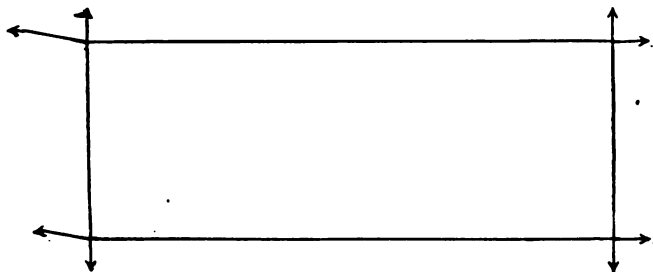


April 22.

“The Kingdom of God is righteousness,
and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”—*Romans*
xiv. 17.

Cherish cheerfulness of disposition ; do not allow despondency, do not let gloom settle down on the soul. Whatever the trial may be, bear up with good heart, for the joy of the Holy Ghost is a characteristic feature of the spiritual life. Brightness, hopefulness, thankfulness for mercies, should ever shine even through sorrow and anxiety, and lighten the depressions that weigh down the heart of man.—REV. T. T. CARTER.

Source of meekness, love, and peace,
Patience, pureness, faith's increase,
Hope and joy that cannot cease,
Hear us, Holy Spirit.
T. B. POLLOCK.



April 23.

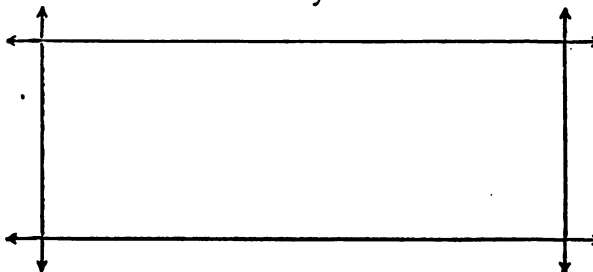
“Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”
—1 Cor. x. 31.

We are all apt to think, when we are no engaged in God's active service, that we are doing nothing. You may fancy that living in retirement, with nothing but a daily round of everyday little duties, you are not at work for God, as you wish to be. Never was there a greater mistake. It is this very time, if you use it properly, which will give you strength for more active duties at other times.

REV J. M. NEALE.

Seldom have I found such peace
As in the soul's deep joy
Of passing onward, free from harm,
Through every day's employ.

If gems we seek, we only tire,
And lift our hopes too high;
The constant flowers that line our way
Alone can satisfy.—DEAN ALFORD.



April 24.

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”—2 *Tim.* ii. 19.

Go forth, then, ye ransomed ones, and remember that you bear through the world the image and superscription of Jesus Christ ; in whatever company of men ye stand, forget not that His signature is upon you.

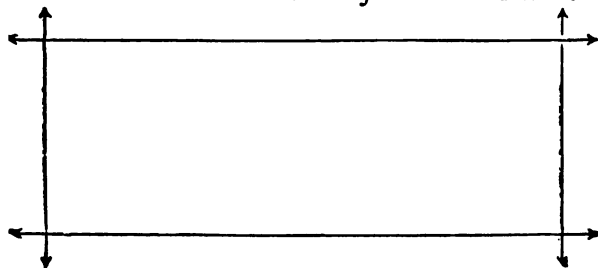
ARCHER BUTLER.

We've nothing but ourselves, and scarce that
 Vile dirt and clay, [either ;
 Yet it is soft, and may
 Impressions take.

Accept it, Lord, and say, that Thou had'st
 rather

Stamp it, and on this sordid metal make
 Thy Holy Image, and it shall outshine
 The beauty of the golden mine.

BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

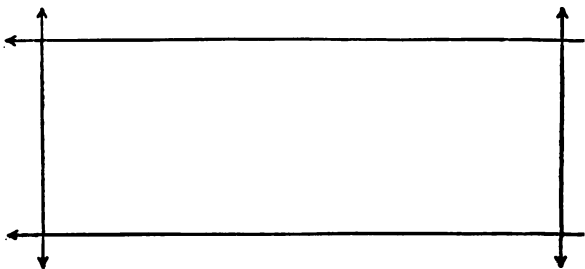


April 25.

“Let every one of us please his neighbour for good to edification. For even Christ pleased Himself.”—*Romans* xv. 2, 3.

Make it a rule *every day* to deny thyself something, because thy Lord has enjoined every one has something to give up as sacrifice to God; and so every one has some cross which he may thus take, and thus doubly blest, both for bearing his cross, and lending to the Lord.

Such was the life Thou livedst, self-abjuring
Thine own pains never ceasing,
Our burdens bearing, our just doom enduring
A life without self-pleasing.—F. W. FABER

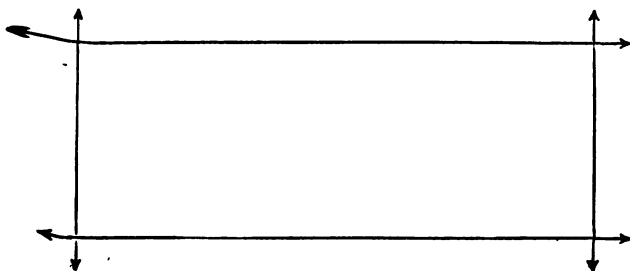


April 26.

“Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.”—*Psalms* cxli. 2.

No business can be so hasty but our prayers may prevent it; the wings thereof are so nimble, that it can fly up to Heaven, and solicit God, and bring down an answer, before even our words need to come forth of our lips. In vain shall we hope that any design of ours can prosper, if we have not first sent this messenger on our errand.—BISHOP HALL.

What power hath prayer, bonding things high
and low,
Linking the weak and strong man with his
God; [Throne
Joining the glistening bands around the
With weary mortals tramping o'er life's waste.
F. G. LEE.

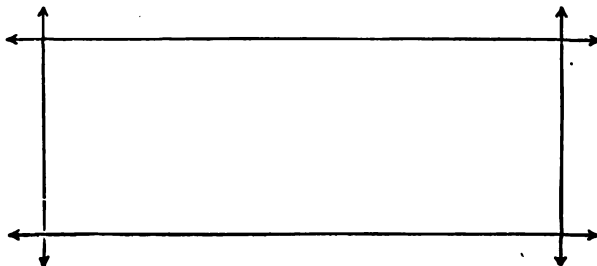


April 27.

—
“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.”—*Col. iii. 1.*
—

Oh, that there were such an heart in us, to put aside this visible world, to desire to look at it as a mere screen between us and God and think of Him who has entered in beyond the veil, and who is watching us, trying us yet and blessing and influencing, and encouraging us towards good, day by day.—*DR. NEWMAN*

Raise us up from earth to Heaven, give us wings of faith and love,
Gales of holy aspirations wafting us to realms above;
That, with hearts and minds uplifted, we with Christ our Lord may dwell,
Where He sits enthroned in glory in His heavenly citadel.—*BISHOP WORDSWORTH.*



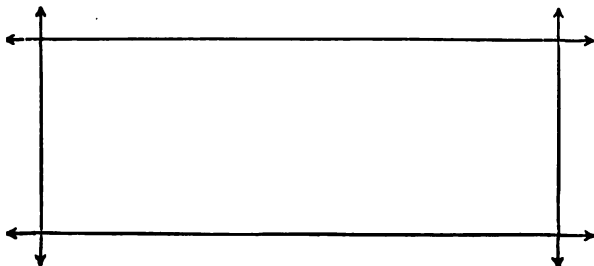
April 28.

“To him that ordereth his conversation aright
ill I shew the salvation of God.”—*Psalms* l. 23.

Whenever the soul is kept in a recollected state, all that acts upon it acts for good : every accident becomes a providence, every voice speaks of God, every passing change is as the breath of air stirring the chords of the lyre, drawing out holy desires, awakening faintly aspiration. The vision of another world is ever breaking through the expressive aspect of natural things.—REV. T. T. CARTER.

As, when we look on meanest things around,
While some sweet pipe attunes the soul's deep
ear [gleams,
The music clothes those sights with radiant
And lights them as with sunshine, so the
thought
Of God clothes all things of this mortal life.

ISAAC WILLIAMS.

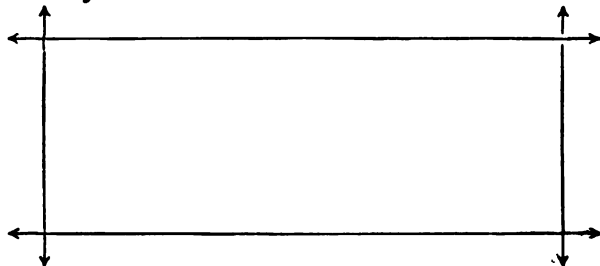


April 29.

“Look unto Me and be ye saved.”—*Isaiah* xlv. 22.

Let nothing induce you to turn the eye of faith, even for a passing hour, from the Saviour; while you look at Him you are safe; once turn aside because the cloud is dark, or the wind boisterous; give the reins to a desponding imagination; and the inevitable effect will be, that you will be separated from Him who alone can be your refuge and your support.—REV. J. H. BLUNT.

Ah! when I see Him hanging there
Upon the shameful tree,
All I can do is still to look,
And think “He died for me.”
And so my thoughts are fixed on *Him*,
For me, *for me* He died,
And while all else seems dark and drear,
“Jesus was crucified.”



April 30.

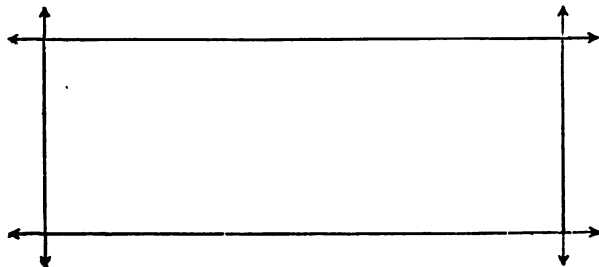
“He will be our guide even unto death.”—
Psalms xlviii. 14.

The cry comes into the inmost heart,
“Follow thou Me,” and they cannot choose
but listen, and follow whithersoever the voice
leads,—away from friends and home, from
earthly love, from all that they hold dear,
to follow step by step, as long as life shall last,
their Guide, the Lord Jesus, up those mountain
heights that lead to Heaven.

BISHOP G. H. WILKINSON.

Upward and onward thy pathway be,
Into the sunshine grand and free,
Leaving the mists and shadows below,
Gaining the pure and spotless snow;
Upward, still upward, thy faithful Guide
Always close at His pilgrim's side,
Leading thee onward from height to height,
Nearer and nearer the stars of light.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



May 1.

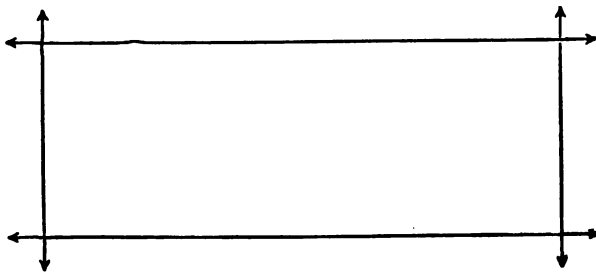
(St. Philip and St. James' Day.)

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”—
St. John xiv. 6.

Without the Way, there is no going ;
without the Truth, there is no knowing ;
without the Life, there is no living. I am the
Way, which thou oughtest to follow ; the Truth,
which thou oughtest to trust ; the Life, which
thou oughtest to hope for.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Thou art the Way, the Truth, the Life,
Grant me that way to know,
That Truth to keep, that Life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow.—BISHOP DOANE.



May 2.

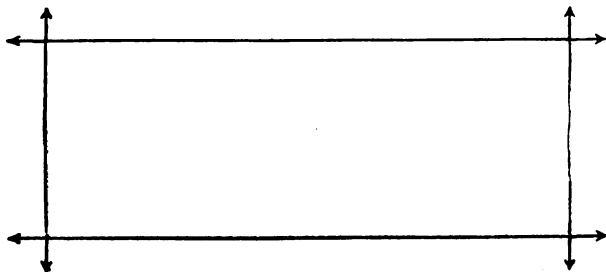
"We love Him, because He first loved us."—
I *John* iv. 19.

Love to God is the effect of God's love to us; the reflection, as it were, of the light and warmth of Heaven.—BISHOP JACKSON.

My God, I love Thee, not because
I hope for Heaven thereby,
Nor yet because who love Thee not
Are lost eternally.

Not for the hope of gaining aught,
Not seeking a reward,
But as Thyself hast loved me,
O ever-loving Lord.

EDWARD CASWALL,
from the Latin of ST. FRANCIS XAVIER.



May 3.

“As for me, I will behold Thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.”—*Psalm xvii.* 15.

The boundless, endless, infinite void in the soul of man, can be satisfied with nothing but God.—REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Shall they be satisfied? the soul's vague
longing,

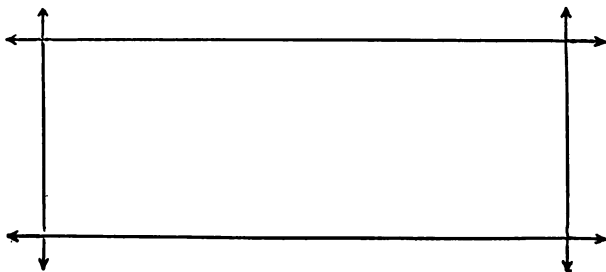
The aching void which nothing earthly fills?
Oh! what desires upon my heart are thronging
As I look upward to the Heavenly Hills!

Thither my weak and weary steps are tending,
Saviour and Lord! with Thy frail child
abide!

Guide me toward Home, where, all my wanderings ending,

I shall see Thee, and “shall be satisfied.”

A. A. PROCTER.



May 4.

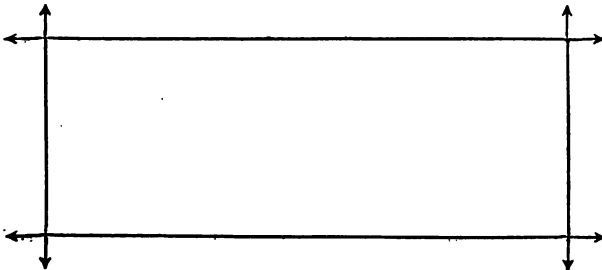
“Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth Thee,
for thou art my God.”—*Psalm* cxliii. 10 (P. B.)

It seems to me that real liberty consists in obeying God in all things, and in following the light which points out our duty, and the grace which guides us; taking as our rule of life, the intention to please God in all things; not only always to do what is acceptable to Him, but if possible, what is most acceptable.

ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

Fain would we Thy Word embrace,
Live each moment in Thy grace,
All our selves to Thee consign,
Fold up all our wills in Thine.
Think, and speak, and do, and be,
Simply that which pleases Thee.

REV. W. BRIGHT.

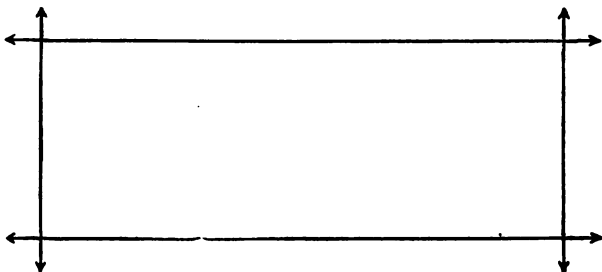


May 5.

“Shew thou me the way that I should walk in, for I lift up my soul unto Thee.”—*Psalm cxliii.* 8 (P. B.)

There are various roads to Heaven, and so long as the fear of God is our guide, it matters not much by which we travel, although some may be more desirable than others, when we have a choice.—ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.

What matter what the path shall be ?
The end is clear, and bright to view ;
He knows that we a strength shall see,
Whate'er the day shall bring to do ;
We see the end, the House of God,
But not the way to that abode,
For God, through ways they have not known
Will lead His own.



May 6.

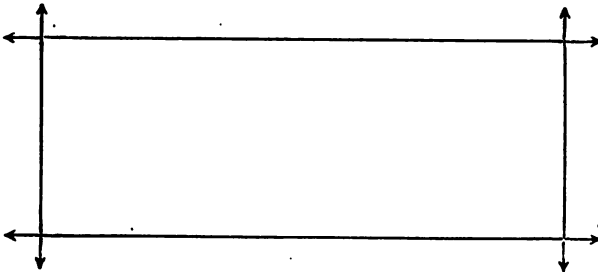
“Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”—*Col. iii. 23.*

We must fulfil our daily duties, accompanying them with all the perfection of which we are capable, but they must be done as beneath the eye of God, with the thought that God has commanded them, and that to do them carefully is pleasing in His sight.

From the French.

Seeking this
Alone,—the approbation of his God,
Which still, with conscience, witnessed to
his peace,
This, this is freedom such as angels use,
And kindred to the liberty of God.

ROBERT POLLOK.



May 7.

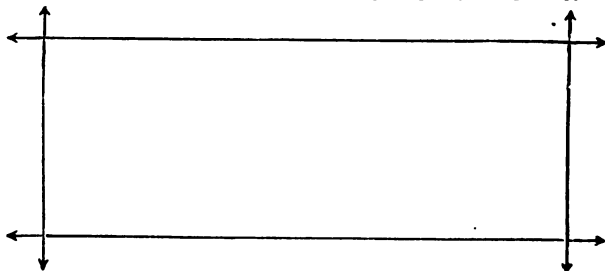
“Our conversation is in Heaven.”—*Phil.* iii. 20.

Heaven is not so much a “yonder” towards which we have to move, as a “here” which we have to realize.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

To know Thee is on earth all blessedness,
And is to be at peace with God and man ;
Nor need we wings of the transporting dove
To bear our restless souls to be with Thee
In the Heaven of Heavens ; for Thou art
with us here ;

This silence is not solitude, if God
And His good angels will approach more near,
And calm the soul their influence to know :
From sights and sounds of the deluding world
The senses here turn inward on the soul,
And so the ear and eye may be in Heaven,
Communing with th’ unearthly melodies
Which tune the heart to wisdom.

ISAAC WILLIAMS.



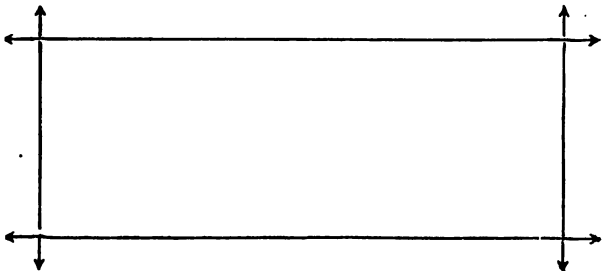
May 8.

“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek Thee; my soul thirsteth for Thee, my flesh longeth for Thee, in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.”—*Psalm* lxiii. 1.

The unquenchable thirst of the soul is a strong proof of its divine nature: a thirst not to be allayed with the impure and turbid waters of any earthly good, or of all worldly enjoyments taken altogether. It thirsts after the never-failing fountain of Good. It thirsts after a Good—invisible, immaterial, and immortal.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Thou, Lord, alone, art all Thy children need,
 And there is none beside;
 From Thee the streams of blessedness proceed;
 In Thee the blest abide,
 Fountain of life, and all-abounding grace,
 Our source, our centre, and our dwelling-place!

MADAME GUYON.



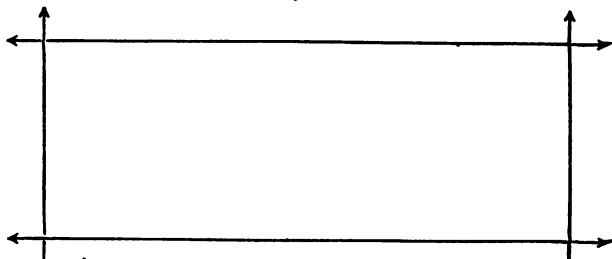
May 9.

"My voice shalt Thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto Thee, and will look up."—*Psalm v. 3.*

I would ever awake with God; my first thoughts are for Him who hath made the night for rest, and the day for travail; and as He gives, so blesses both. If my heart be early seasoned with His presence, it will savour of Him all the day after.—BP. HALL.

Begin the day with God;
He is thy sun and day;
He is the radiance of thy dawn,
To Him address thy lay.

Thy first transaction be
With God Himself above;
So shall thy business prosper well,
And all the day be love.—H. BONAR.



May 10.

“The light shall shine upon thy ways.”—*Job*
xxii. 28.

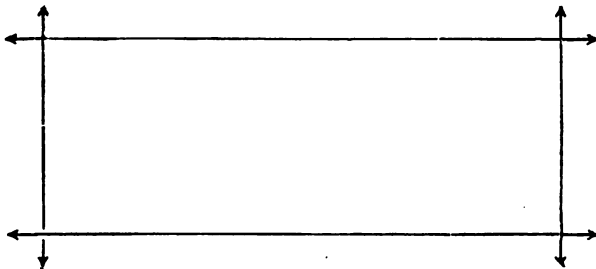
Let us seek the grace of a cheerful heart, an even temper, sweetness, gentleness and brightness of mind, as walking in His light, and by His grace. Let us pray to Him to give us the spirit of ever-abundant, ever-springing love, which overpowers and sweeps away the vexations of life by its own richness and strength, and which above all things unites us to Him who is the fountain and the centre of all mercy, loving-kindness and joy. DR. NEWMAN.

Light of the world! undimming and unsetting,

Oh shine each mist away,

Banish the fear, the falsehood, and the fretting;

Be our unchanging day!—H. BONAR.



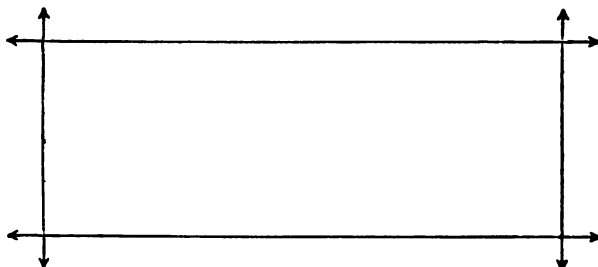
May 11.

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.”—*Rev. iii. 21.*

You will never repent of this holy warfare, when the battle is so short, the victory so certain, and your triumphal crown and the peace procured by this conflict will last for ever.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

’Tis but a little, and we come
To our reward, our crown, our home !
Another year, it may be less,
And we have crossed the wilderness,
Finished the toil, the rest begun,
The battle fought, the triumph won.

H. BONAR.



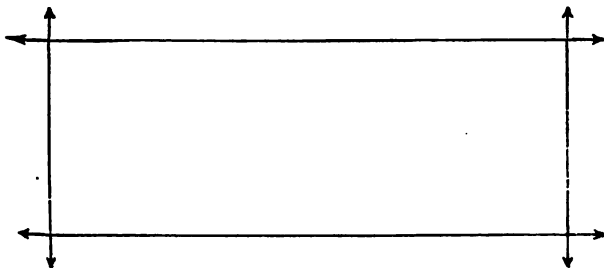
May 12.

—
“Behold, My servants shall rejoice. Behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart.”—*Isaiah* lxxv. 13, 14.
—

A holy man is from the very necessity of the case a happy man. It is as impossible to separate happiness from holiness, as to separate light from the sun. The nearer we approximate to the image of God, the more deeply we participate in the happiness of God.

REV. O. WINSLOW.

If thou would'st find His likeness,
Search where the lowly dwell,
The faithful few that keep His laws,
Not boastfully, but well;
Mark those who walk rejoicing
The way which Jesus trod;
Thus only shalt thou see below
Fit images of God.—J. G. LYONS.

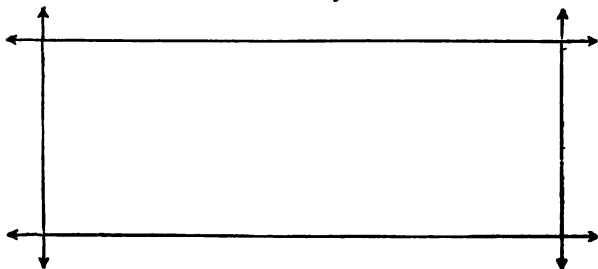


May 13.

“He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”—*Rom. viii. 32.*

God gives us Christ, and in Him, He gives us all things. The gift is ours, let it expand as it will in our heart and life. In having Him, we have pardon; in having Him, we have holiness; in having Him, we have Heaven itself.—ARCHER BUTLER.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
More than all in Thee I find;
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint;
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee,
Spring Thou up within my heart;
Rise to all eternity.—C. WESLEY.

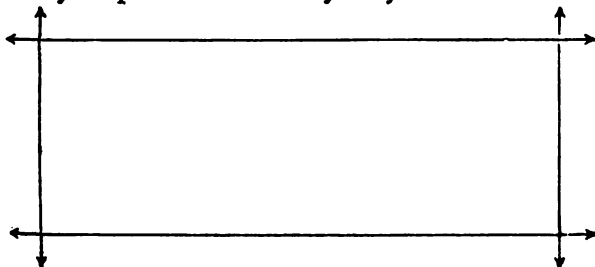


May 14.

“This is the way, walk ye in it.”—*Isaiah* xxx. 21.

Let thy duties be done from the single conviction of thine heart ; if God has spoken to thee, if He has plainly whispered within thee, then it is not for thee to look round in the world, and begin to balance consequences ; thy path is clear ; thine is not to question why, but to act, come loss or come gain, come life or come death. Blessed is the man whose heart and tongue and hand are in this ever simple and ready union.—DEAN ALFORD.

I will go in the strength of the Lord,
In the path He hath marked for my feet ;
I will follow the light of His word,
Nor shrink from the dangers I meet.
His presence my steps shall attend ;
His fulness my wants shall supply ;
On Him, till my journey shall end,
My hope shall securely rely.



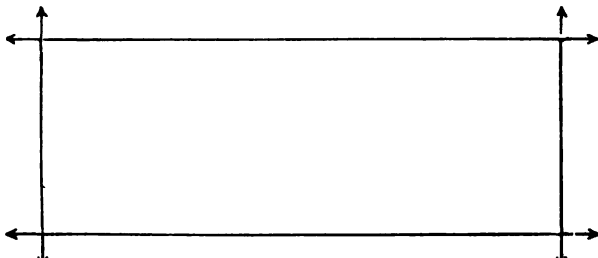
May 15.

“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”—*Isaiah* xl. 31.

All great attainments are gradual: continuous, patient effort, guided by wise deliberation, is the true means of spiritual progress.

CHANNING.

Then let my way appear,
Steps unto heaven,
All that Thou sendest me
In mercy given,
Angels to beckon me
Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer to Thee.—SARAH ADAMS.



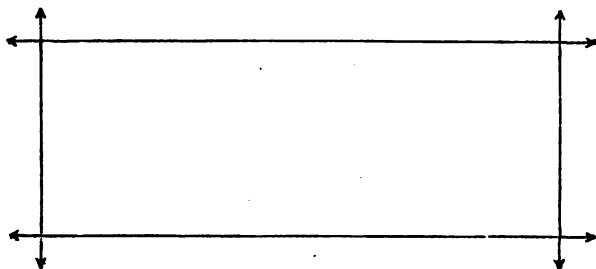
May 16.

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest,
that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of
God, let us hold fast our profession."—*Heb. iv. 14.*

Be mindful of the profession which thou
hast made, and have always before the eyes
of thy soul, the remembrance of thy Saviour
crucified.—THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Jesus hath died for you ;
What can His love withstand ?
Believe, hold fast your shield, and who
Shall pluck you from His hand ?
To keep your armour bright,
Attend with constant care,
Still walking in your Captain's sight,
And watching unto prayer.

C. WESLEY.



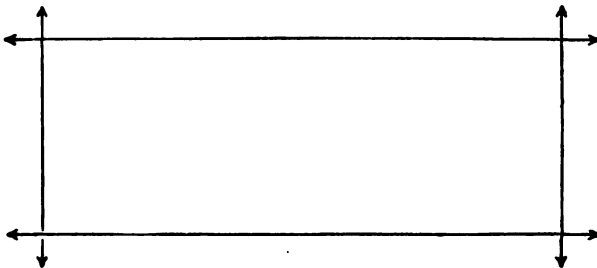
May 17.

“Redeeming the time.”—*Col. iv. 5.*

We are not only to be careful about all the larger portions of our time, the hours of business or of reading—but also about the intervals or void spaces of the day; all these are to be *employed*; we ought, as some one says, to be “packing minutes”—thus there will be no portion for the Devil to make his own, no room for “idle words” or unprofitable waste.

Toiling early in the morning,
Catching moments through the day,
Nothing small or lowly scorning,
While we work, and watch, and pray;
Gathering gladly
Free-will offerings by the way.

THOMAS MACKELLAR.



May 18.

“Speak Lord; for Thy servant heareth.”—1 Sam.
iii. 9.

When persons have heard the first call,
everything calls them. When the heart is
awake, every, the lowest, whisper calls it.

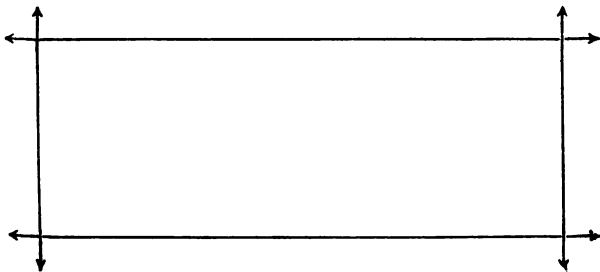
DR. PUSEY.

Here am I, Lord, Thou callest me,
Thou drawest, and I follow Thee;
My heart and soul Thou dost demand—
I lay them gladly in Thy hand.

I dare not linger; duties rise
Before unseen, to meet my eyes;
Contrite, I haste my Lord to meet,
But, ah, how laggard move these feet!

Shed down on me Thy mighty power
To strengthen for each coming hour,
And then through flood, through fire, and
I'll follow Thee, my Lord, my Lord. [sword]

From the German.

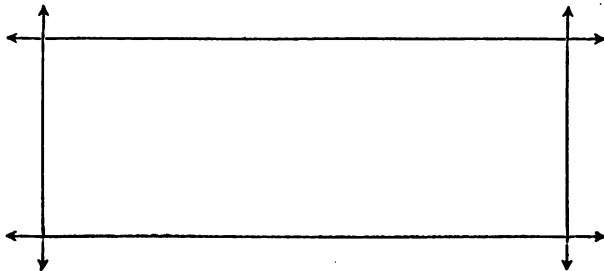


May 19.

“Let us love one another, for love is of God.”—
1 *St. John* iv. 7.

The more we love God the better we are, and the greater our friendships are, the dearer we are to God. Let them be as dear and let them be as many as you can; there is no danger in it; only when the restraint begins, then begins our imperfection. It were well if you could love and benefit all mankind; for I conceive that is the sum of all friendship.—BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

Dig channels for the stream of Love,
Where they may broadly run;
And Love has overflowing streams
To fill them every one.
But if at any time thou cease
Such channels to provide,
The very springs of Love for thee
Will soon be parched and dried,
For we must share, if we would keep,
That good thing from above;
Ceasing to give, we cease to have.
Such is the Law of Love.—ABP. TRENCH.



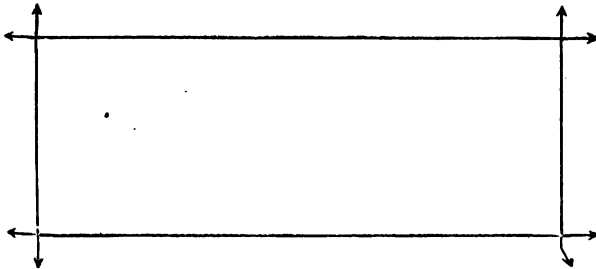
May 20.

“He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”—*St. James v. 20.*

Oh, were it not worth a whole life to have won, by our prayers, one soul to live for ever with God!—*DR. PUSEY.*

I found a man who sought for rest,
 But nothing him sufficed;
 I led him to the Cross's feet,
 And showed him Jesus Christ!
 This is thy good day's work, my soul!
 O blessed soul! Thy crown
 Has one more jewel! Now, my soul,
 In peace we'll lay us down;
 In peace, and love, and faith, and hope,
 The long day's work is done;
 New work, new strength, the Master gives
 With the new rising sun.

M. VAN KNEVELS.



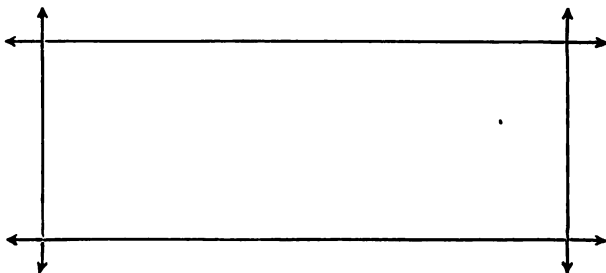
May 21.

“A word spoken in due season, how good is it.”—
Prov. xv. 23.

We have met a man as we walked by the way, and a few words of that converse have left a stamp upon our life. The common life of some men has a savour of Heaven; little do we know the responsibilities of a chance meeting. Souls are an hungered, and we give them no meat; thirsty, and we give them no drink. And we might have done it.

DEAN VAUGHAN.

Are there no words, that from the fount
Of life and blessing come,
Cheering the sorrowing soul with love,
And leading wanderers home?
O Christ! write Thou Thy words of peace
Upon our hearts, and be
The guard of each winged messenger
That upward flies to thee.—ANNA SHIPTON.



May 22.

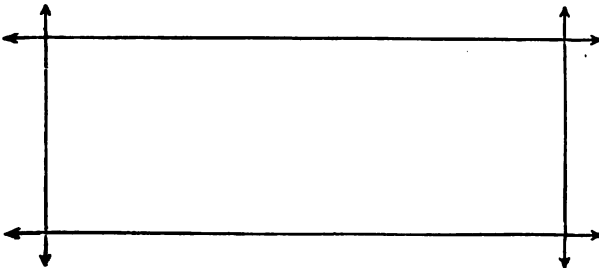
“The just shall live by faith.”—*Rom. i. 17.*

Live by faith : let faith, as it were, lay heaven and earth together. Look not at God as if He were afar off. Set Him always before you, even at your right hand. In every action, let the command of God, and the promise of heaven, be before your eyes, and upon your hearts.—BAXTER.

By faith in Christ, I walk with God,
With Heaven, my journey's end, in view ;
Supported by His staff and rod,
My road is safe, and pleasant too.

Though snares and dangers throng my path,
And earth and hell my course withstand,
I triumph over all by faith,
Guarded by His Almighty Hand.

JOHN NEWTON.



May 23.

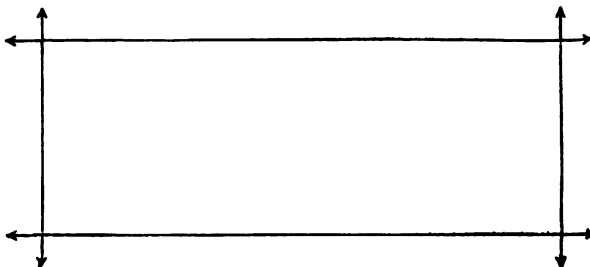
"I am the Lord, I change not."—*Mal.* iii. 6.

Our confidence is neither in frail man, nor
in ourselves as frail as others; it is in God
only, the One unchanging Truth.

ARCHBISHOP FÉNELON.

With God alone
Is truth and joy and light,
Walk thou with Him in peace and love,
Hold fast the good and right.

Hold fast the true!
For truth can never change,
It grows not old, 'tis ever one
However vast its range.—H. BONAR.



May 24.

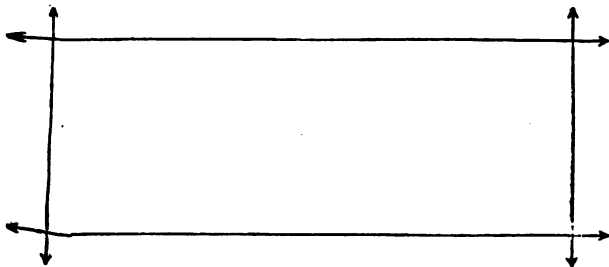
"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me."—*Psalm*
23.

If thankfulness and praise are to be the ceaseless service of the true Church of God throughout eternity, are we qualifying ourselves for joining in them? If thanksgiving and praise are the very atmosphere of glory, are we becoming, by the daily cultivation of a spirit of thanksgiving—a sanguine, buoyant, elastic spirit—acclimatized to glory?

DEAN GOULBURN.

Lord, I will mean and speak Thy praise,
Thy praise alone ;
My busy heart shall spin it all my days ;
And when it stops for want of store,
Then will I wring it with a sigh or groan,
That Thou may'st yet have more.

GEORGE HERBERT.



May 25.

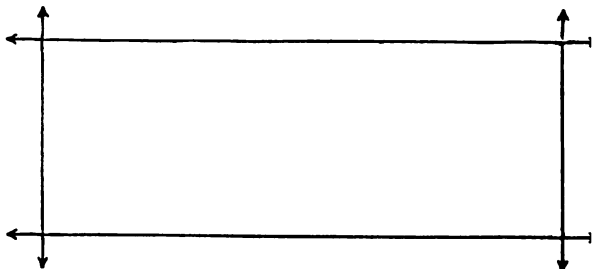
"I come to do Thy will, O God."—*Heb. x. 9.*

He who endeavours to be humble, an holy, and perfect, in order to win Heaven, has only a counterfeit religion. God for His own sake—Goodness because it is good—Truth because it is lovely—this is the Christian's aim. The prize is only an incentive; it is separable from success, but not the aim itself.

REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

The Christ, the well-belovèd Son,
Was good for very goodness' sake;
His painful cross I gladly take,
And ask no pay but duty done;
Among Thy sons, O God, let me be one.

EDWARD EGGLESTON.

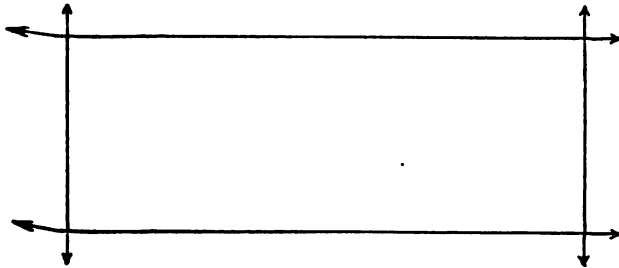


May 26.

"He hath made everything beautiful in his time ;
also he hath set the world in their heart, so that
no man can find out the work that God maketh
from the beginning to the end."—*Eccles.* iii. 11.

The beauty of nature is necessary for the
perfection of praise. To think that we know
everything about God is to benumb and
deaden worship, but mystical thoughts quick-
en worship ; and the beauty of nature raises
mystical thoughts.—DR. MOZLEY.

There is a lesson in each flower,
A story in each stream and bower ;
In every herb on which you tread
Are written words which, rightly read,
Will lead you from earth's fragrant sod
To hope, and holiness, and God.



May 27.

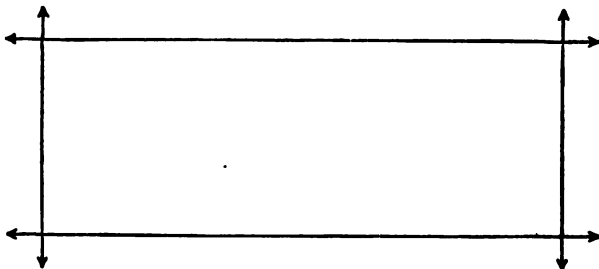
"O Lord, truly I am thy servant."—*Psalm*
cxvi: 16.

The service of God is the creature's real work, so also is it his true dignity. To serve God is the only honour it is worth our while to strive after.—F. W. FABER.

Oh, not to fill the mouth of fame
My longing soul is stirred ;
Oh, give me a diviner name ;
Call me Thy servant, Lord !

Sweet title that delighteth me,
Rank earnestly implored ;
Oh, what can reach the dignity
Of Thy true servants, Lord ?

T. H. GILL.



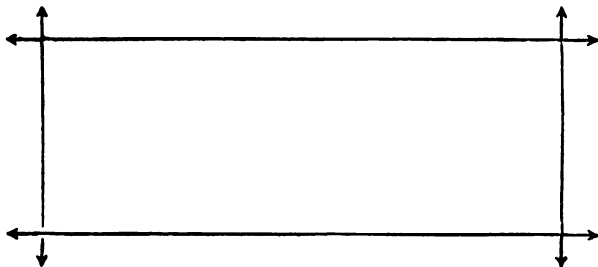
May 28.

“**And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand.**”—*Rev. viii. 4.*

Prayer, in faith, hope, charity, humility, is the voice of God in our secret hearts. It goes up to God; it speaketh to God; it converseth with our Judge; not in our name, but in Christ’s. What should hinder it from ascending to the Presence of God, to be presented by Him, not for our unworthiness, but for His worthiness, who gave it to us, gives to it the value of His own Blood?

DR. PUSEY.

Pray, pray, pray, there is no help but prayer,
A breath that fleets beyond this iron world,
And touches Him who made it.—TENNYSON.



May 29.

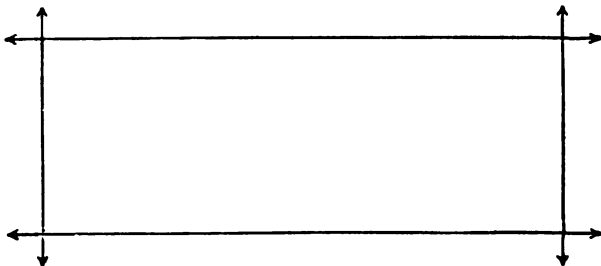
"I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."—*Habakkuk* iii. 18.

Strive to maintain a holy gladness, which may shine forth in your words and actions, and be attractive to those around you, leading them to glorify God, our only aim.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.

And O! shall I, when flowers and trees,
Things soulless, senseless, such as these
Live to His praise,—as tho' they seem'd
His own, His purchased, His redeem'd!
Shall I, for whom His blood was pour'd,
The blood of the incarnate Lord,
Be silent,—when this heart should raise
To its Redeemer, hymns of praise!

J. S. B. MONSELL.



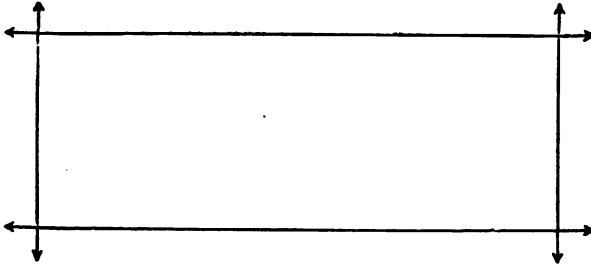
May 30.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”—*St. Matt. v. 7.*

Mercy, in common with love, is spontaneous; constraint spoils it. Pressure lessens its value, whether it be the pressure of supplication or personal annoyance. The beauty of mercy, as it spreads itself out upon others, is disinterestedness; there must be no gratification of fallen inclinations, no allowed feelings of pride or self-love.—REV. W. H. HUTCHINGS.

Kind hearts are here; yet would the tenderest one,

Have limits to its mercy; God has none :
And man's forgiveness may be true and sweet,
But yet he stoops to give it. More complete
Is love that lays forgiveness at Thy feet,
And pleads with Thee to raise it; only Heaven
Means crowned, not vanquished, when it says
“Forgiven.”—A. A. PROCTER.



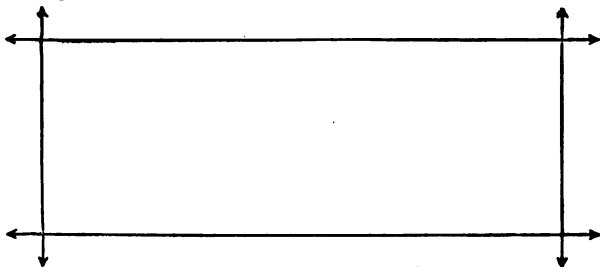
May 31.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”—*Heb.* iv. 16.

Habitual prayer constantly confers decision on the wavering, and energy on the listless, and calmness on the excitable, and disinterestedness on the selfish. It braces the moral nature by transporting it into a clear invigorating, unearthly atmosphere.—CANON LIDDON.

Lord, what a change within us one short hour
Spent in Thy presence will prevail to make!
What heavy burdens from our bosoms take,
What parchèd grounds refresh, as with a
shower!

We kneel, and all around us seems to lower;
We rise, and all, the distant and the near,
Stand out in sunny outline brave and clear;
We kneel, how weak, we rise how full of
power.—ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.



June 1.

"Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?"—1 *Chron.* xxix. 5.

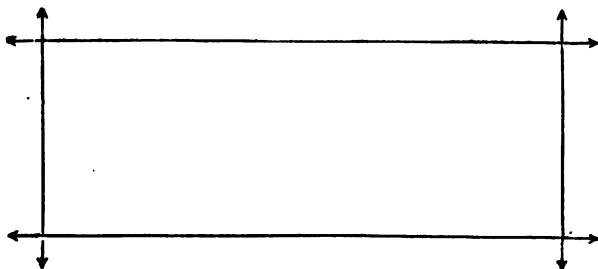
Consecration is not wrapping oneself in a holy web in the sanctuary. Consecration is going out into the world, where God Almighty is, and using every power for His glory. It is taking all advantages as trust funds—as confidential debts owed to God. It is simply dedicating one's life in its whole flow to God's service.

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.

Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take myself, and I will be,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



June 2.

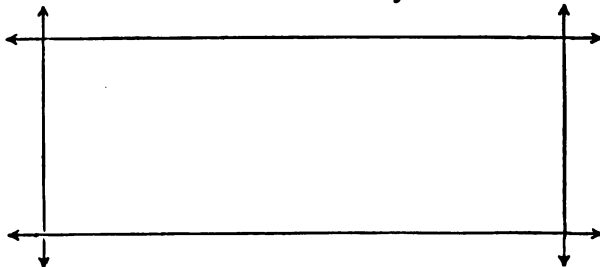
“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another ; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”—*St. John* xiii. 34.

Come what may, hold fast to love. Learn the new commandment of the Son of God. Not to love merely, but to love *as He loved*. Go forth in this spirit to your life duties ; go forth, children of the Cross, to carry every thing before you, and win victories for God by the conquering power of a love like His.

REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Then draw we nearer day by day,
Each to his brethren, all to God ;
Let the world take us as she may,
We must not change our road ;
Not wondering, though in grief, to find
The martyr's foe still keep her mind ;
But fixed to hold love's banner fast,
And by submission win at last.

JOHN KEBLE.



June 3.

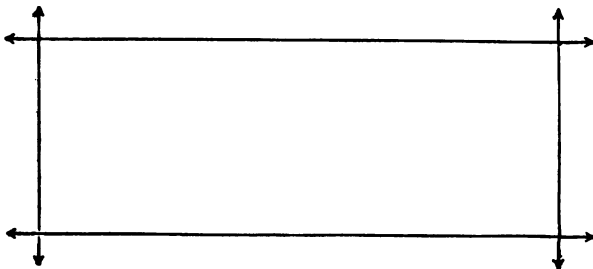
“Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report . . . think on these things.—*Phil.* iv. 8.

Let us begin, if we have never begun before, to practise ourselves in choosing and in refusing, in the province of thought as well as of action. Let us go in quest of some thoughts, and let us bar and lock out others. Let us learn from the Holy Spirit, daily sought, and hourly cherished, the power to invite and to exclude in the entertainment of guests in the house of the soul within.

DEAN VAUGHAN.

Thoughts, thoughts, thoughts!
Rolling wave-like on the mind's strange shore,
Rustling leaf-like through it evermore,
O that they might follow God's good hand!

BISHOP WILLIAM ALEXANDER.



June 4.

“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go.”—*Psalm xxxii. 8.*

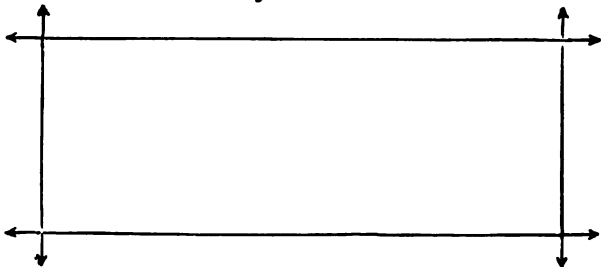
Strive with might and main to live, in the depths of your mind, a life of communion with God—communion calm, sweet, and unbroken. You will fail many times a day at first, to maintain that beautiful, delicate state of mind, which is ruptured at once by passion, or anxiety, or self-indulgence. But heal the wound by the Blood and Grace of Christ, and try again. You shall make progress by little and little in God's school, sure and solid, even if slow.—DEAN GOULBURN.

We are at school, through this strange life
of ours

We pass, like children, through their teaching time ;

Training in holy trust our highest powers ;

Learning by common things, truths most sublime.—E. J. A.



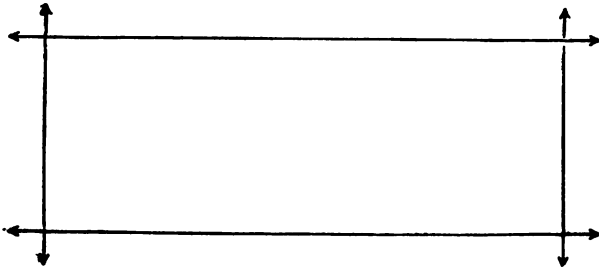
June 5.

"All things, whatsoever ye ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive."—*St. Matt.* xxi. 22.

The very end of prayer is to nourish our faith and love, that we may trust in God. One of two things we may without doubt hope, that He will either give us what we ask, or what He knoweth to be more useful to us.—DR. PUSEY.

Pray ; though the gift you ask for
May never comfort your fears :
May never repay your pleading,
Yet pray, and with hopeful tears ;
An answer, not that you long for
But diviner, will come one day,
Your eyes are too dim to see it,
Yet strive, and wait, and pray.

A. A. PROCTER.



June 6.

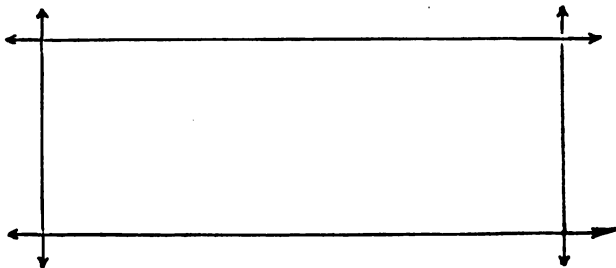
"I will trust, and not be afraid."—*Isaiah* xii. 2.

When God sends you help, try to see Him only in it, and take such help from day to day, as the Israelites their manna, without anxious thought for the morrow's provision.

ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

The child leans on its parent's breast,
Leaves here its care, and is at rest ;
The bird sits singing by its nest,
And tells aloud
His trust in God, and so is blest
'Neath every cloud.

ISAAC WILLIAMS.



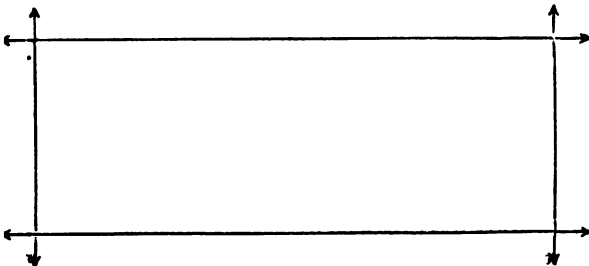
June 7.

to fight I, not as one that beateth the air : but
up under my body, and bring it into subjection.”
Cor. ix. 26, 27.

Who hath a greater combat than he that
ours to overcome himself? This ought to
our endeavour, to conquer ourselves, and
ably to wax stronger, and to grow in holiness.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Holy strivings nerve and strengthen,
Long endurance wins the crown ;
When the evening shadows lengthen,
Thou shalt lay thy burden down.



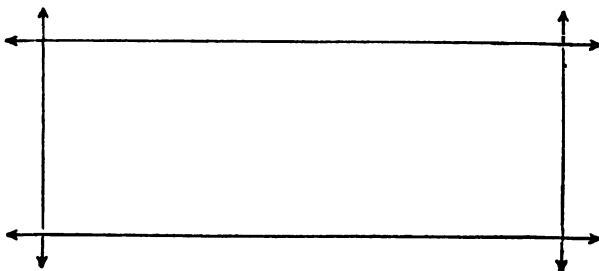
L

June 8.

“Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon Thee; thou saidst, Fear not.”—*Lam.* iii. 57.

The woof of life is dark, but it is shot with a warp of gold.—REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Mark how there still has run, enwoven from above,
Through thy life's darkest woof, the golden thread of love.—ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.



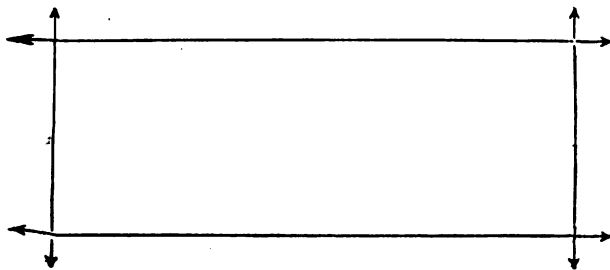
June 9.

“They looked unto Him, and were lightened.”—
Psalm xxxiv. 5.

In every position of life, our privilege is to be “looking unto Jesus.” He knows that in times of prosperity the feet of His saints are apt to slide; and that in times of adversity they are often pierced and wounded. Thus, in the smooth path as in the rough, Jesus is to be the one object to which the eye is raised and upon which it rests.—REV. O. WINSLOW.

Saviour, I lift my trembling eyes
To that bright seat, where placed on high,
The great, the atoning Sacrifice
For me, for all is ever nigh.

Be Thou my guard on peril's brink,
Be Thou my guide through weal and woe :
And teach me of Thy cup to drink,
And make me in Thy path to go.—M. G. T.



June 10.

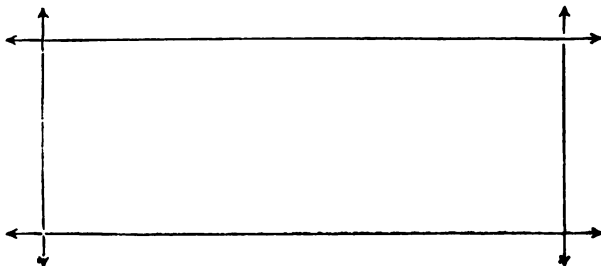
“ I will hope continually, and will yet praise Thee more and more.”—*Psalm lxxi. 14.*

Hope is a very beautiful Christian grace. It makes the spirit very bright and peaceful. The hopeful Christian is a blessing to himself, and all around him. He seems to live in the sunshine, his thoughts are glad and happy thoughts, his words are cheering and inspiring; his very look is sunny.

BISHOP WALSHAM HOW.

Be happy in thy God,
On Him cast every load,
To Him bring every care,
To Him pour out thy prayer.
Rest in His holy love,
Which daily from above
Like His own sunlight comes
Down on earth's myriad homes.

H. BONAR.



June 11.

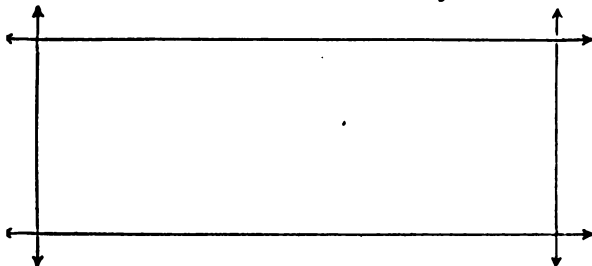
(S. Barnabas the Apostle.)

'The son of consolation.'—*Acts* iv. 36.

a spirit of consideration, of deference, lent yet intelligible sympathy, of tender-
towards another's untold trials, of pity for
her's undivulged temptations—in these
is the Love of Christ wellnigh perfected:
y who practise such things have learned of
m. In His school you will yourself *become*
son of consolation, and wounded sorrowful
arts will take knowledge of you that you
ve been with Jesus.—DEAN VAUGHAN.

The world's a room of sickness, where each heart
Knows its own anguish and unrest;
The truest wisdom there, and noblest art,
Is his, who skills of comfort best;
Whom by the softest step and gentlest tone
Enfeebled spirits own,
And love to raise the languid eye,
When, like an angel's wing, they feel him fleeting by.

JOHN KEBLE.



June 12.

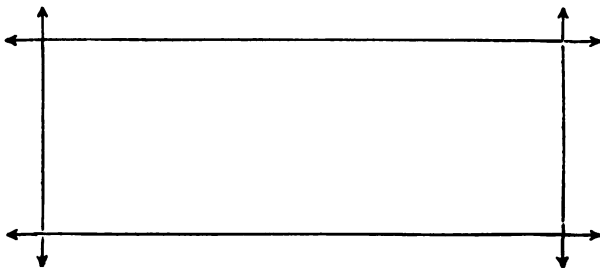
“Ye are the salt of the earth.”—*St. Matt.* v. 13.

He does not bid us take pains in doing good that others may know it ; but He bids us lead such lives that, without their thinking of it, others may be won to goodness by us. This is the common calling of all Christians.—REV. J. KEBLE.

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

Footprints that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

H. W. LONGFELLOW.



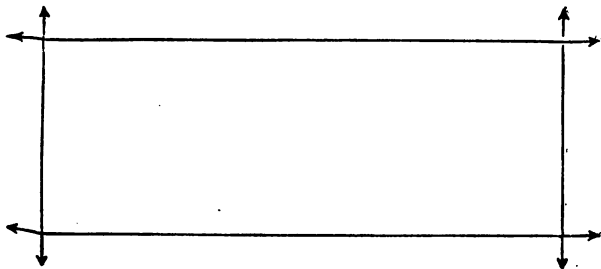
June 13.

“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature : old things are passed away ; behold, all things are become new.”—2 Cor. v. 17.

If we fully feel that God is our Father, everything about us alters by degrees. Duties grow into privileges, and sorrows are heavenly presences ; and at the commonest sights and sounds something tingles in our hearts, as if God were just on the point of speaking or appearing.—F. W. FABER.

But when Thou mak'st Thy presence felt,
And when the soul hath grasped Thee right,
How fast the dreary shadows melt
Beneath Thy warm and living light.
In Thee I find a nobler birth,
A glory o'er the world I see,
And Paradise returns to earth,
And blooms again for us in Thee.

CATHERINE WINKWORTH,
from the German of Novalis.



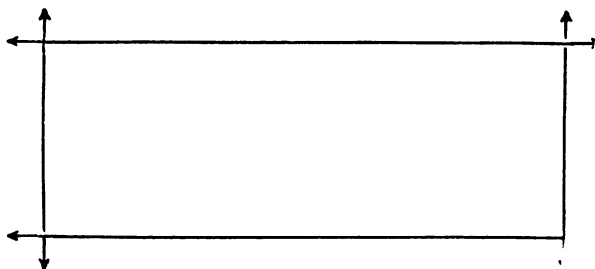
June 14.

“I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.”—*Romans* xvi. 19.

Let us pray to God to give us the great and precious gift of simplicity; so that we may have the boldness and frankness of those who are as if they had no sin, from having been cleansed from it. In a word so that we may have confidence in Him, that we may stay on Him, and rest in the thought of Him instead of plunging amid the thickets of this world; that we may bear His eye and His voice, and know no knowledge but the knowledge of Him and Jesus Christ crucified, and desire no objects but what He has blessed and bid us pursue.—DR. NEWMAN.

Give me simplicity; that I may live;
So live and like, that I may know Thy ways,
Know them and practise them; then shall I give
For this poor wreath, give Thee a crown of praise.

GEORGE HERBERT.



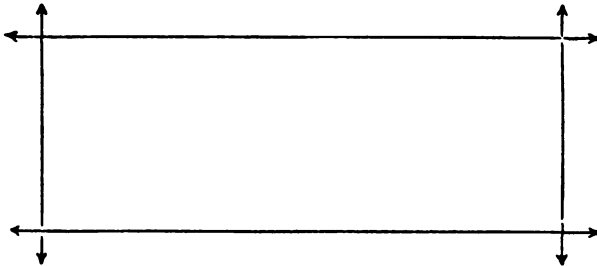
June 15.

“Fight the good fight of faith.”—1 *Tim.* vi. 12.

The Christian's aim is victory, not freedom from attack ; and a soldier cannot learn to fight by pondering over maps and plans of campaigns in his barrack-room. It must be on the field of blood, and in the lonely bivouac. Without real trial, how soon we find rust upon our arms and sloth upon our souls, and the paltry difficulties of common life weigh like chains upon us, instead of being brushed away like cobwebs.

REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Then combat well, of nought afraid,
For thus His follower thou art made ;
Each battle teaches thee to fight,
Each foe to be a braver knight,
Armed with His might.—BÖHMER.



June 16.

“Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”—*Col.* iii. 23.

Our progress in God's service depends upon the heartiness with which we give ourselves up to it; and what seems a great matter to a niggardly, self-seeking soul, will be as nothing to one who has lost self in God.

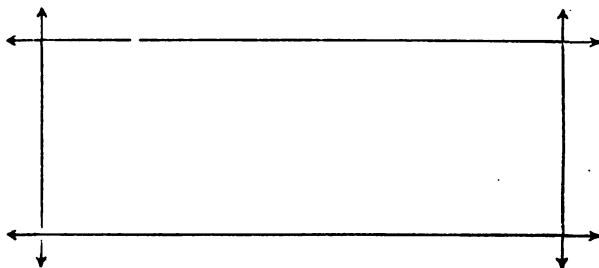
J. N. GROU.

Teach us to live, and living, wait for Thee,
Redeemer—making life and labour sweet;
Watching and working till our eyes shall see

The face they long to greet.

Our highest earthly bliss to do Thy will;
Our hope, the promise of Thy great reward;
Our effort, all Thy purpose to fulfil
And magnify the Lord.

SARAH DOUDNEY.

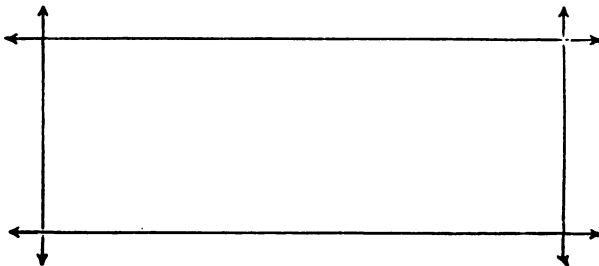


June 17.

“I will guide thee with mine eye.”—*Psalm*
xxxii. 8.

It is His eye which never sleeps, which shall guide us through what is so dark to us ; His eye which nothing can escape shall guide us amid all snares of the deceitful world, and guard us against all the subtleties of the devil ; His eye, which is full of love and full of light, shall guide us on the path of faith and charity.—CANON JELF.

Precious promise God hath given
To the weary passer-by,
On the way from earth to heaven,
“I will guide thee with Mine eye.”
When temptations almost win thee,
And thy trusted watchers fly,
Let this promise ring within thee—
“I will guide thee with Mine eye.”



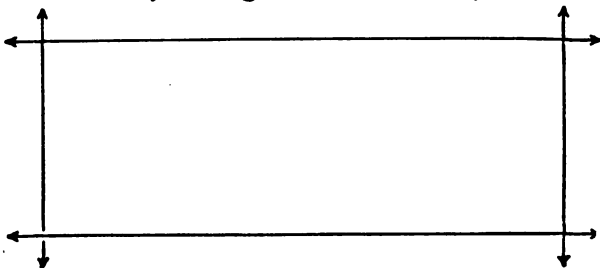
June 18.

“We command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work.”—2 *Thess.* iii. 12.

He that waits for some great thing is, too likely, only anxious to be thought of as some great one. The year will often bring tasks in one hand, and honours in the other. But much that is most honourable must be achieved in sedulous quiet; only let us advance in the kingdom, as well as towards it, not content with being just in.—T. T. LYNCH.

Not by actions that the crowd applauds,
Not by works that give the world renown,
Not by martyrdom, or vaunted crosses
Canst thou win and wear the immortal
crown.

Daily struggling, though unknown and lonely,
Every day a rich reward will give;
Thou wilt find, by hearty struggling only
And truly loving, thou canst truly live.



June 19.

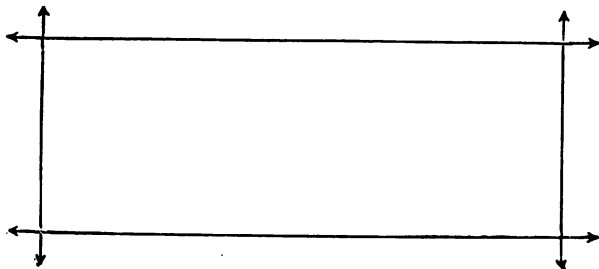
“Faint, yet pursuing.”—*Judges* viii. 4.

Love disappointed of a vent for its energies in one channel may yet find another and a truer exercise in other channels. If, for instance, thou canst not be a martyr in a foreign mission, thou canst be a patient bearer of the every-day trials at home; if not possessed of a large fortune, with great opportunities of blessing multitudes, thou canst always speak kind words, and continually intercede for the healing of some form of human misery.

REV. T. T. CARTER.

Some in the van Thou call'st to *do*,
And the day's heat to share;
And in the rearward not a few
Thou only bidd'st to *bear*.

J. M. NEALE.



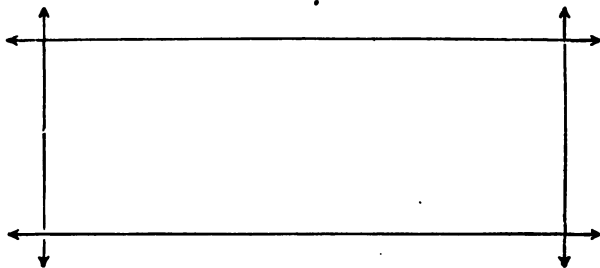
June 20.

“Continuing instant in prayer.”—*Romans* xii. 12.

Certain thoughts are prayers: there are moments when the soul is kneeling, no matter what the attitude of the body may be.—VICTOR HUGO.

If 'tis e'er denied thee
In solitude to pray,
Should holy thoughts come o'er thee
When friends are round thy way;
E'en then the silent breathing
Of thy spirit raised above
May reach His Throne of glory
Who is Mercy, Truth, and Love.

JANE CROSS SIMPSON.



June 21.

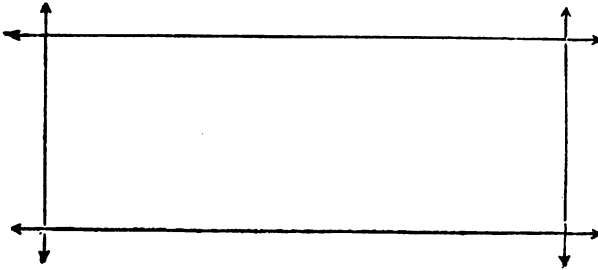
“The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”—*Prov. iv. 18.*

There must be progress, less of the world and more of God in the heart every day. And it is good to have our ambition growing; the higher we rise, to aspire still the higher, looking farther than before, even towards the perfection of holiness.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Upward still to purer heights,
Onward yet, to scenes more blest,
Calmer regions, clearer lights,
Till we reach the promised rest.
Holy Jesu, day by day,
Lead us in the narrow way.

BISHOP WALSHAM HOW.



June 22.

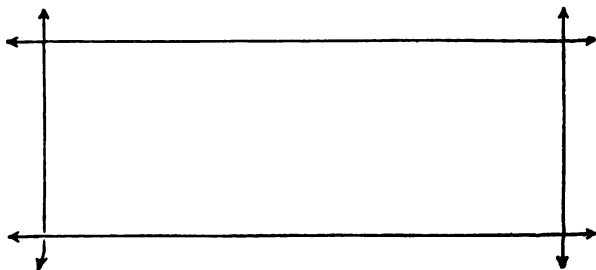
“Ye are the light of the world.”—*St. Matt. v. 14.*

Our light is to shine before men, because we are none of us to live and die to ourselves; we are none of us to go on as if we had our own souls only to save. Rather, when we were made Christians we became part of a great and manifold Body, the Kingdom of Heaven, the Body of Christ, which is so joined and compacted together that “whether one member suffer all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”—REV. J. KEBLE.

He traineth so
That we may shine for Him in this dark world,
And bear His standard dauntlessly unfurled;

That we may show
His praise by lives that mirror back His love,
His witnesses on earth, as He is ours above.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



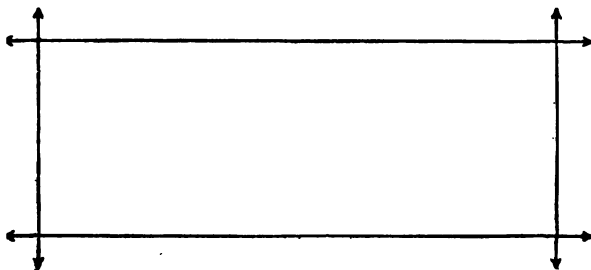
June 23.

“Rejoice evermore.”—1 *Thess.* v. 16.

The glad gladdens: who gladdens not is
not glad.—LAVATER.

What would'st thou be?
A blessing to each one surrounding me;
A chalice of dew to the weary heart,
A sunbeam of joy, bidding sorrow depart,
To the storm-tossed vessel a beacon-light,
A nightingale's song in the darkest night,
A beckoning hand to a far-off goal,
An angel of love to each friendless soul;
Such would I be,
O that *such* happiness were for me!

F. R. HAVERGAL.



M

June 24.

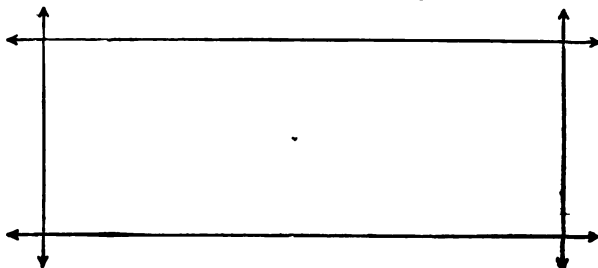
(S. John Baptist's Day.)

"This my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."—*St. John* iii. 29, 30.

The Word of God preserves but few sayings of this great Saint for our instruction; indeed, he said but little, save to God. But how his intense lowliness and loyalty to Christ come out in these few sayings! How beautiful is his loyal, hearty, self-forgetting humility! To see others preferred before us, and not to repine; to be content to be overlooked and forgotten; to bear not merely to be surpassed, but, if such be God's will, ourselves to "decrease"; these may we learn from John the Baptist are the dispositions which prepare the way for the kingdom of Christ in our souls.

Who counts it gain
His light should wane,
So the whole world to Jesus throng?

JOHN KEBLE.



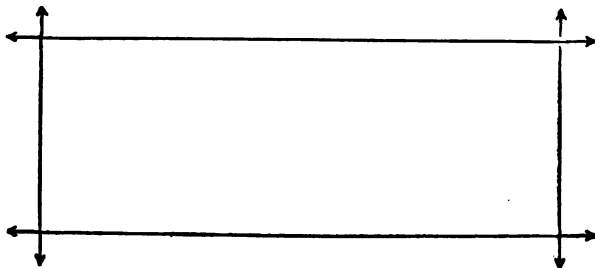
June 25.

“Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.”—*Phil.* ii. 4.

A kind word, a gentle act, a modest demeanour, a loving smile, are as so many seeds that we can scatter every moment of our lives, and which will always spring up and bear fruit.—*From the French.*

Be useful where thou livest, that they may
Both want and wish thy pleasing presence still.
Kindness, good parts, great places, are the
way
To compass this. Find out men's wants and
will,
And meet them there. All worldly joys go
less
To the one joy of doing kindnesses.

GEORGE HERBERT.



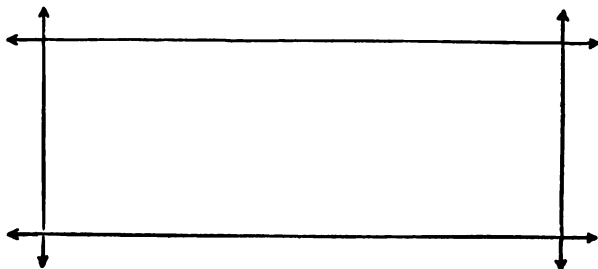
June 26.

“In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.”—*St. John* i. 4.

Thy Life is our way, and by the path of holy patience we walk towards Thee, who art our Crown.—THOMAS À KEMPIS.

O Way, through Whom our souls draw near
To yon eternal home of peace,
Where perfect love shall cast out fear,
And earth's vain toil and wandering cease;
In strength or weakness may we see
Our heavenward path, O Lord, through Thee—

DEAN PLUMPTRE.



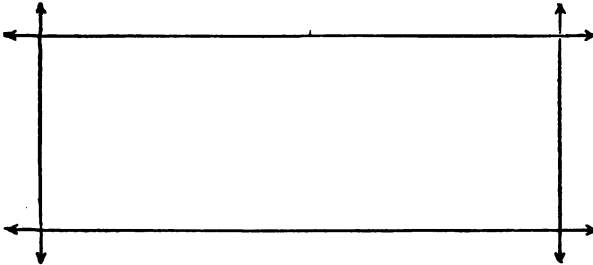
June 27.

"Love the truth."—*Zech.* viii. 19.

As Christians we must eschew untruth in every form; we must labour to seem just that we are, neither better nor worse. To be true to God, and to the thoughts of His presence all day long, and to let self occupy as little as possible of our thoughts; to care much for His approval, and comparatively little for the impression we are making on others.—DEAN GOULBURN.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me;
I myself would truthful be,
And with wisdom kind and clear,
Let Thy life in mine appear,
And with actions brotherly
Speak my Lord's sincerity.

T. T. LYNCH.

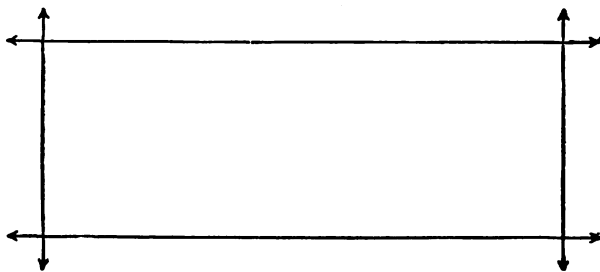


June 28.

“That ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.”—*Ephes.* iii. 17, 18, 19.

There is nothing good, nothing holy, nothing beautiful, nothing joyous, which Jesus is not to His servants. No one need be poor, because, if he chooses, he can have Jesus for his own property and possession. No one need be downcast, for Jesus is the joy of Heaven, and it is His joy to enter into sorrowful hearts. We can exaggerate about many things, but we can never exaggerate the compassionate abundance of the love of Jesus to us.—F. W. FABER.

It passeth knowledge, that dear love of Thine,
My Jesus, Saviour; yet this soul of mine
Would of Thy love, in all its breadth and
length,
Its height and depth, its everlasting strength,
Know more and more.



June 29.

(S. Peter's Day.)

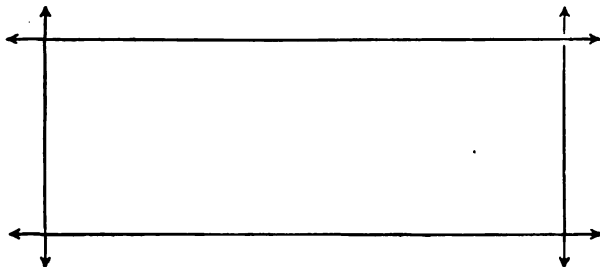
“And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter.”
—*St. Luke* xxii. 61.

O Jesus, look upon me with the same eye
of compassion, whenever I shall do amiss,
that I may see my fault, and forthwith return
to my duty.—BISHOP WILSON.

How many times with faithless word
Have we denied Thy Holy Name,
How oft forsaken our dear Lord,
And shrunk when trial came !

O oft forsaken, oft denied,
Forgive our shame, wash out our sin ;
Look on us from Thy Father's side,
And let that sweet look win.

C. F. ALEXANDER.



June 30.

"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness."—*Gal. vi. 1.*

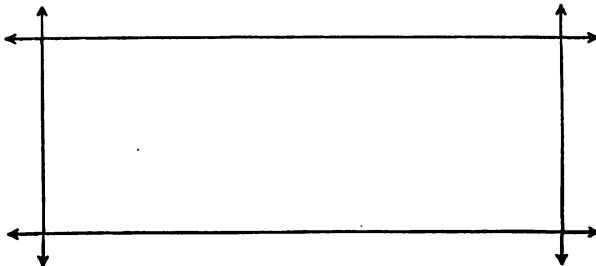
Let the man who, by the grace of God, has cast off the bondage of sin from his own soul, apply himself to encourage other sinners to seek forgiveness. For there is no sacrifice so acceptable to God as a zeal to save souls.

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT.

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone ;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thy erring children, lost and lone.

O strengthen me, that while I stand
Firm on the Rock, and strong in Thee,
I may stretch out a loving hand
To wrestlers with the troubled sea.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



July 1.

“To know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”—*Ephes. iii. 19.*

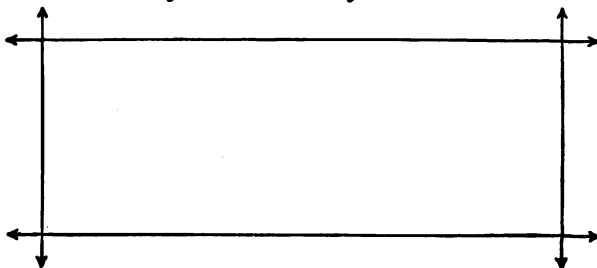
Blessed is he that understandeth what it is to love Jesus, and contends earnestly to be like Him. Nothing else can satisfy or make us perfect. And oh, be thou a bearer of His Cross as well as a lover of His Kingdom.

BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

No tongue of mortal can express,
No pen can write the blessedness,
He only who hath proved it knows
What bliss from love of Jesus flows.

Abide with us, O Lord, to-day,
Fulfil us with Thy grace we pray ;
And with Thine own true sweetness feed
Our souls, from sin and darkness freed.

J. M. NEALE, *from St. Bernard.*

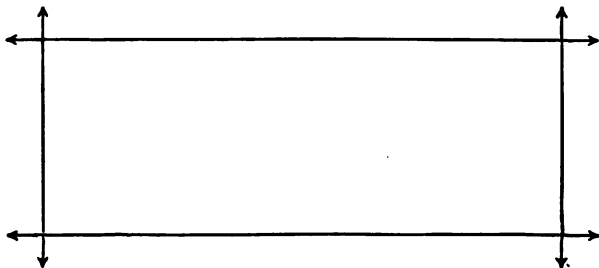


July 2.

“The ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.”—1 *St. Peter* iii. 4.

If we saw ourselves as God sees us we should be willing to be anywhere, to be silent when others speak, to be passed by in the world's crowd, and turned aside to make way for others; we should be willing to put others in the way of doing that which we might have got reputation for, by doing ourselves. This was the temper of our Master, this is the meek and quiet spirit, and this is the temper of the humble with whom the high and lofty One dwells.—REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

O Lord, that I should spend my life for others
With no ends of my own,
That I should pour myself into my brothers
And live for them alone.—F. W. FABER.



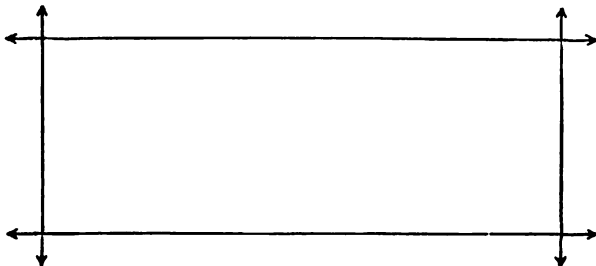
July 3.

"Behold, all things are become new."—2 *Cor.* v.
17.

As we become consciously possessed with that new life, and our whole nature grown into harmony with it, so necessarily we look on outward nature, on those with whom we have to do, on the events and passing incidents with which we are brought in contact, with different eyes, viewing them in new relations, with a new sense of duty, and a higher love, interpreting them as He sees them, thinking of them, dealing with them, feeling towards them, as in God, as we bear about His presence with us.

REV. T. T. CARTER.

Blessèd be God, Whose grace
Shows Him in every place
To homeliest hearts of pilgrims pure and
meek.—JOHN KEBLE.



July 4.

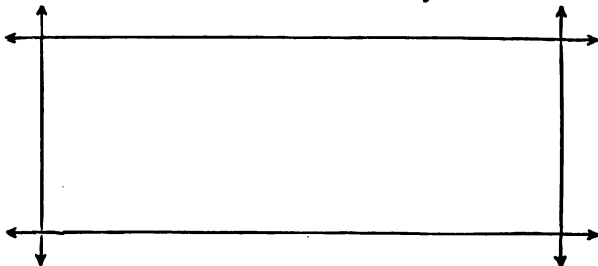
“I seek not my own glory.”—*St. John* viii. 50.

His divine works, His works of compassion, had nothing of flattery in them. He did them, not as seeking His own glory; for He had a choir of angels to chant His praise. He did them not to flatter men; for He needed not that which is ours. Power cannot flatter; and mercy is so intent on its work that it thinketh of nothing else. And thus should we look upon Him, and teach our brethren, as He wrought miracles.

REV. A. FARINDON.

Help us, through good report and ill
Our daily cross to bear;
Like Thee, to do our Father's Will,
Our brethren's griefs to share.
Let grace our selfishness expel,
Our earthliness refine;
And kindness in our bosoms dwell,
As free and true as Thine.

REV. J. H. GURNEY.

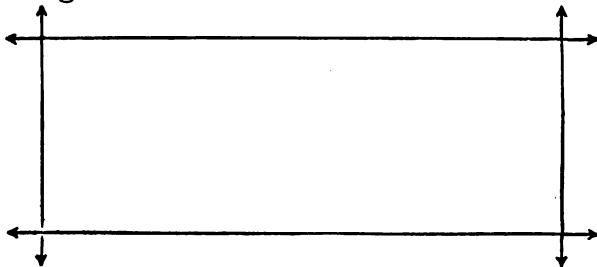


July 5.

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”—*Col. iv. 2.*

Let that continual prayer, that life of love which means death to self, spread out from your fixed seasons of prayer as from a centre over whatever you do. All should become prayer, that is, a loving consciousness of God's Presence, whether it be social intercourse, or business. Such a course as this will ensure you real, lasting peace.—ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

Glad with Thy light, and glowing with Thy
love,
So let me ever speak, and think, and move,
As fits a soul new touched with life from
Heaven,
That seeks but so to order all her course,
As most to show the glory of that source
By Whom alone her strength, her life, are
given.—SPITTA.



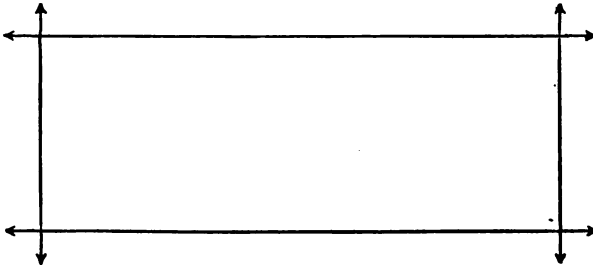
July 6.

“Conformed to the image of His Son.”—*Romans*
viii. 29.

I consider myself as a stone before a carver,
whereof he is to make a statue ; presenting
myself thus before God, I desire Him to make
His perfect image in my soul, and render me
entirely like Himself.—BROTHER LAWRENCE.

Stamp in, O God, at any cost,
The likeness of Thy Son !
Filial submission to Thy Will
Is Heaven itself begun.

C. M. NOEL.



July 7.

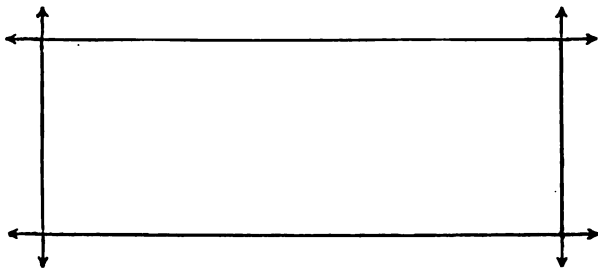
“I will be with thee ; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”—*Joshua* i. 5.

Keep close to Jesus, both in life and in death, and commit thyself unto His faithfulness who, when all fail, can alone help thee.

THOMAS A KEMPIS.

Holding His hand, my steadied feet
May walk the air, the seas ;
In life and death His smile falls sweet,
Lights up all mysteries :
Stranger nor exile can I be
In new worlds, where He leadeth me.

L. LARCOM.



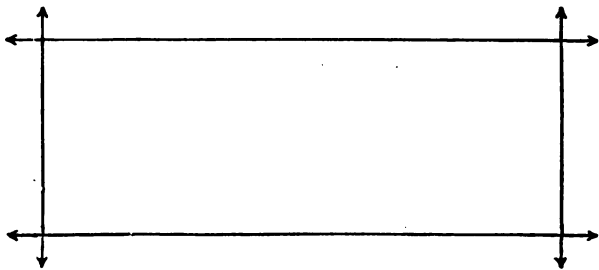
July 8.

“Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.”—1 *St. John* iii. 3.

He who lives in the habitual contemplation of immortality cannot be in bondage to time, or enslaved by transitory temptations. He who aspires to gaze undazzled on the intolerable brightness of that One before whom Israel veiled their faces, will scarcely quail before any earthly fear.

REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Yea! what hast thou to do with gloom
Whose footsteps spurn the conquered tomb?
Thou, that through dreariest dark can see
A smiling immortality?
Be thy brow turnèd bright on all,
Thy voice like some clear clarion call
Pealing o'er life's tumultuous van,
The key-note of the hopes of man.
While o'er thee flames through gain, through
That fadeless symbol of the Cross. [loss,



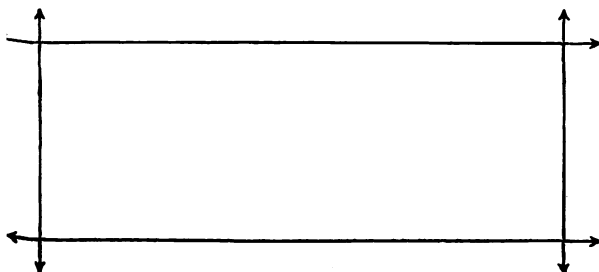
July 9.

"Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ."—*Romans*
xiii. 14.

This is the great study of a Christian, to eye and read Christ much, and, by looking on Him, to become more and more like Him, making the impression deeper by each day's meditation and beholding of Him. O that we had hearts to it! It is high, it is sweet, to be growing more and more Christlike every day.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Give me a faithful heart,
Likeness to Thee,
That each departing day
Henceforth may see
Some work of love begun,
Some deed of kindness done,
Some wanderer sought and won,
Something for Thee.

S. O. PHELPS.

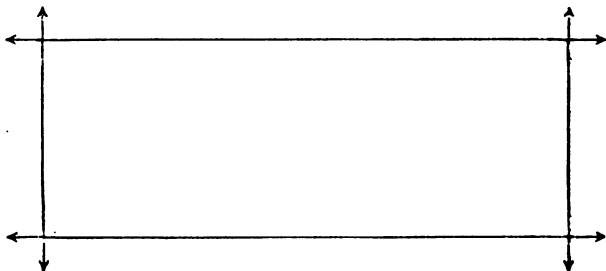


July 10.

“I have set the Lord always before me.”—*Psalm*
xvi. 8.

The constant thought and recognition of God is good, is necessary for us all, who would live for any worthy purpose.

Into my closet fleeing, as the dove
Doth homeward flee,
I haste away to ponder o'er Thy love,
Alone with Thee!
Amid the busy city, thronged and gay,
But One I see,
Tasting sweet peace, as unobserved I pray,
Alone with Thee!
O happy life! Life hid with Christ in God!
So making me,
At home, and by the wayside, and abroad
Alone with Thee!—E. P. PRENTISS.



July 11.

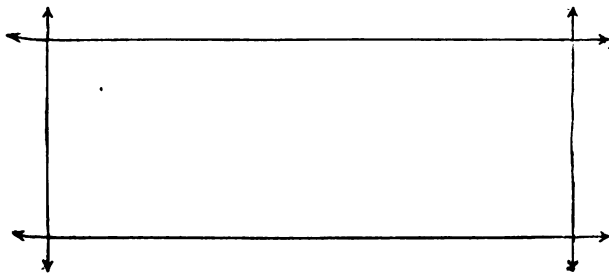
“Be strong, and do it.”—1 *Chron.* xxviii. 10.

According as a man has power of throwing himself intensely into the present, of forgetting what he has been, and remembering only what he is and what he is to be,—in that proportion is he energetic, is he useful, does he impress the things that he does, or the age in which he lives, with reality, and work God's work, and do good in the world.

DEAN ALFORD.

In the name of God advancing
Sow thy seed at morning light :
Cheerily the furrows turning,
Labour on with all thy might,
Look not to the far-off future,
Do the work which nearest lies ;
Sow thou must before thou reapest,
Rest at last is labour's prize.

From the German.



July 12.

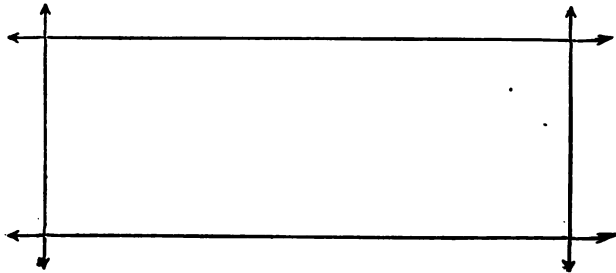
“He went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.”—*St. Luke vi. 12.*

Prepare yourself for your work by self-denial and prayer, when you are not *in* your work.—REV. J. M. NEALE.

Come here awhile and rest ;
Seek ye this shelter from the feverish glare ;
And pour out freely from the aching breast,
Its sin and want in prayer.

And then the holy balm
Of peace and blessing every pain dispels ;
And the rough waters become clear and calm
Where Jesus' Presence dwells.

ADA CAMBRIDGE.



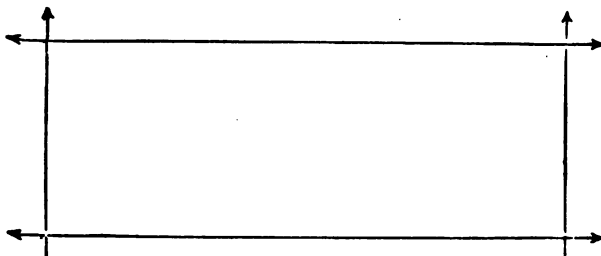
July 13.

“God saw every thing that He had made, and behold, it was very good.”—*Gen. i. 31.*

Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything beautiful. Beauty is God's handwriting, a wayside sacrament; welcome it in every fair face, every fair sky, every fair flower; and thank for it *Him*, the fountain of all loveliness, and drink it in simply and earnestly, with all your eyes; it is a charmed draught, a cup of blessing.—REV. C. KINGSLEY.

For the earth and all its beauty,
The sky and all its light,
For the dim and soothing shadows
That rest the dazzled sight,
For unfading fields and prairies,
Where sense in vain has trod,
For the world's exhaustless beauty,
I thank Thee, O my God!

L. LARCOM.



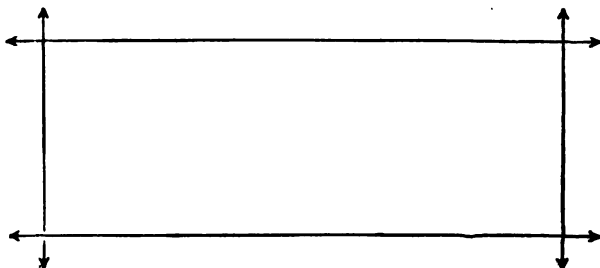
July 14.

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee."—*Isaiah* xxvi. 3.

Confidence and fear are almost one thing when we speak of God; he that fears most trusts most, he that trusts most fears most. To none is death so little of a change as to those whose life has been one long unbroken confidence in God.—F. W. FABER.

The heart that trusts, for ever sings,
And feels as light as it had wings,
A well of peace within it springs;
Come good or ill,
Whate'er to-day, to-morrow brings,
It is His will!

ISAAC WILLIAMS.



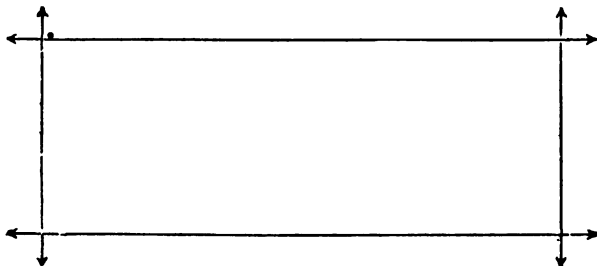
July 15.

"Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness."—*Psalm* cvii. 8.

It would be an ungracious act towards a human artist, who had composed a beautiful work for the eye, if when he had put it before our eyes, we passed it over, and said it gave us no pleasure to look at it. And it is the same with respect to the great Divine Artificer and Maker of Heaven and earth. He must be pleased with our admiration of His own sublime work.—DR. MOZLEY.

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth,
Over and around us lies.
Lord of all to Thee we raise,
This our grateful psalm of praise.

F. S. PIERRONT.



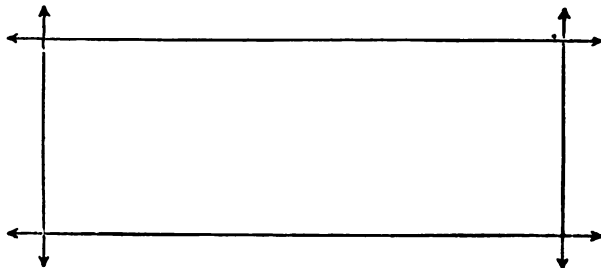
July 16.

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”—*Ephes. vi. 18.*

Prayers are those rich presents and gifts which, being carried up to heaven, do best testify our dutiful affection. On others what more easily and yet what more fruitfully bestowed than our prayers? prayer is that which we always have in our power to bestow.

RICHARD HOOKER.

Art thou not weary of our selfish prayers,
For ever crying “Help me, save me, Lord?”
We stay fenced in by petty fears and cares,
Nor hear the song outside, nor join its vast accord.
Is not the need of other souls our need?
After desire, the helpful act must go,
As the strong wind bears on the winged seed
To some bare spot of earth, and leaves it there to
grow.—LUCY LARCOM.



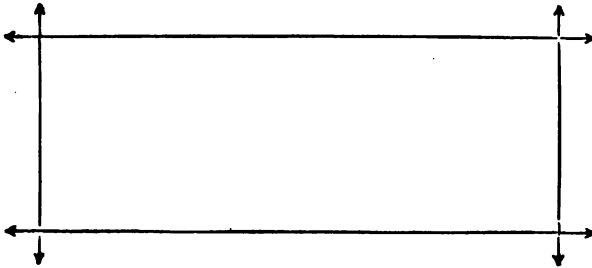
July 17.

“He ever liveth.”—*Heb.* vii. 25.

A Christian is essentially one who throws himself with absolute trust upon a living Lord, and not simply one who endeavours to obey the commands and follow the example of a dead teacher.—DR. WESTCOTT.

Jesus lives! our hearts know well
Nought from us His love shall sever:
Life, nor death, nor powers of hell,
Tear us from His keeping ever.
Alleluia!

F. E. Cox. *From the German.*

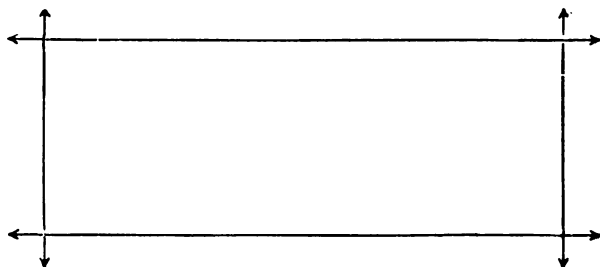


July 18.

“The fruit of the spirit is . . . joy.”—*Gal. v. 22.*

Music in the heart is a blessed gift of God, granted often to those who have neither ear nor voice for harmony or song; it is the music of a Christian man rejoicing in the wonders which the Lord hath wrought for him, and for the world; rejoicing in the brightness which has come into his daily life through Jesus Christ.—CANON JELF.

To sojourn in the world, and yet apart,
To dwell with God, and yet with man to
feel,
To bear about for ever in the heart
The gladness that His Spirit doth reveal.



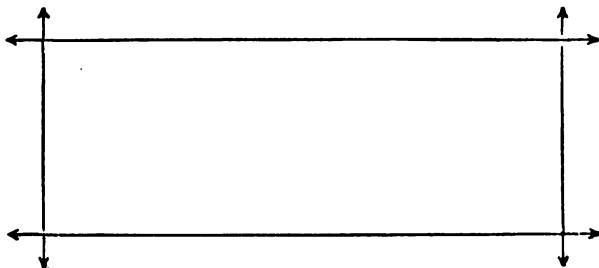
July 19.

"Be thou nigh at hand, O Lord."—*Psalm cxix.*
151 (P. B.)

A devout man beareth about everywhere
with him his own comforter, Jesus, and saith
unto Him, "Be Thou present with me, O
Lord Jesu, in every time and place.

THOMAS A KEMPIS.

Step after step, feeling Thee close beside me,
Although unseen,
Through thorns, through flowers, whether the
tempest hide Thee,
Or heavens serene,
Assured thy faithfulness cannot betray,
Thy love decay.



July 20.

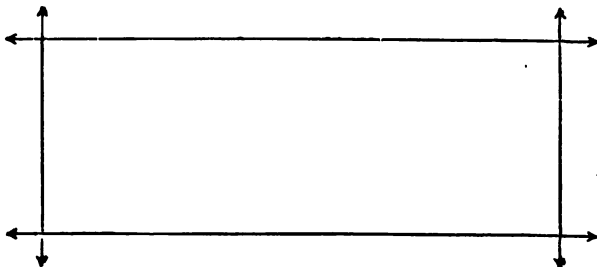
“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling.”—2 *Tim.* i. 9.

All through our life Christ is calling us, but we are slow to master the great truth that Christ is, as it were, walking among us, and by His Hand, or Eye, or Voice bidding us follow Him. He called us first in Baptism, —but afterwards also; if we are striving to fulfil our calling, He calls us on from grace to grace, and from holiness to holiness, while life is given us.—DR. NEWMAN.

So must we follow—surely not unmeet—

With the Great Master sorrowing on before;

In duty's path, rough hands and wounded feet,
Will make us *know* Thee, Lord, and *love*
Thee more.—J. S. B. MONSELL.



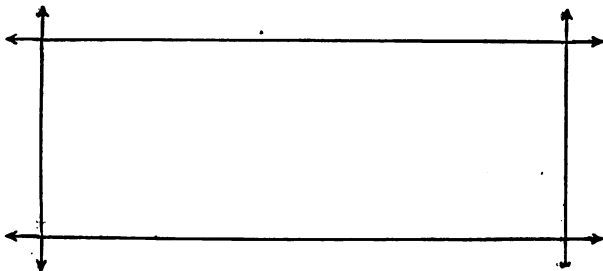
July 21.

“Enoch walked with God.”—*Gen. v. 24.*

It is the proper life of a Christian to be daily outstripping himself, to be spiritually wiser, holier, more heavenly minded to-day than yesterday, and to-morrow than to-day. Every day loving the world less, and Christ more, than the former, and gaining every day some further victory over his secret corruptions, having his desires in all temporal things more cool and indifferent, and in spiritual things more ardent; his heart rendered more fixed upon God, aspiring to more near communion with Him.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Oh, for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame :
A light to shine upon the road,
That leads me to the Lamb.

W. COWPER.



July 22.

"Surely every man walketh in a vain show.
Now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in Thee."
—*Psalm xxxix.* 6, 7.

Year by year, if we look for them, events
will come upon us which will sever us from
the world, if we grasp it not wilfully. For
nothing earthly can satisfy the soul which is
heavenly; all which passeth away is unreal,
and what is unreal cannot satisfy, and all
passeth away except the soul and God.

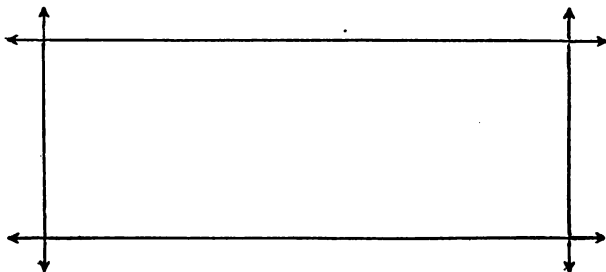
DR. PUSEY.

Are there not aspirations in each heart
After a better, brighter world than this?
Longings for beings nobler in each part—
Things more exalted—steeped in deeper
bliss?

Who gave us these? What are they? Soul!
in thee

The bud is budding now for immortality!

ROBERT NICOLI.



July 23.

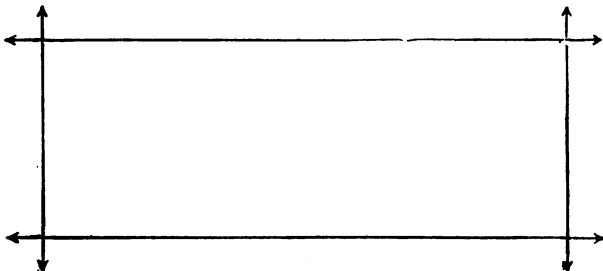
“My Beloved is mine, and I am His.”—*Sol. Song*
ii. 16.

No man truly receives Jesus that does not, at the same time, deliver up himself wholly to Him. Among all the advantages we pursue, there is nothing comparable to this exchange. Our gain is immense from both, not only from the acceptance of Him, but also from surrendering ourselves to Him.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Long did I toil, and knew no earthly rest,
Far did I rove, and found no certain home;
At last I sought them in His sheltering
breast,
Who opes His arms, and bids the weary
come.
With Him I found a home, a rest divine;
And I since then am His, and He is mine.

H. F. LYTE.



July 24

“Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer.”—*Isaiah* lviii. 9.

When the clock hath stricken, we hear after, a glowing and a quivering sound. The actions of the day are presented and repeated in the dreams of the night; which are the echo and reverberations of our customary behaviour. So, when we have begun in prayer, and lodged our petitions in the bosom of our gracious Father, they are presently poured back upon us, in the midst of our common actions, and we resume them again, and one prayer is made the resultancy of another; and this music is like that of the spheres, perpetual and everlasting.—REV. A. FARINDON.

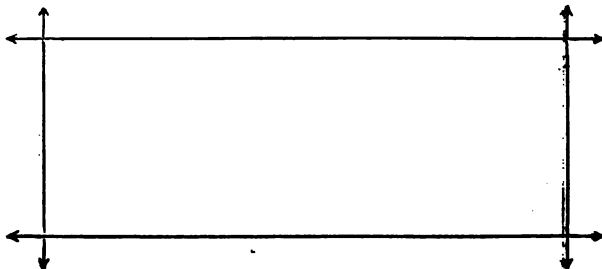
Thy large bestowing makes us ask for more,

Prayer widens with the world wherethrough love flows.

Needy, though blest, we throng before Thy door,

Let in Thy sunshine, Lord, on all that lives and grows.

L. LARCOM.



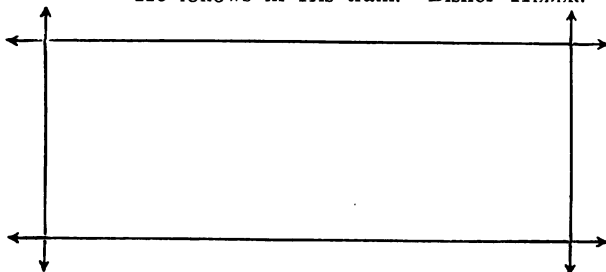
July 25.

(S. James the Apostle.)

“Can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”—*St. Mark* x. 38.

In this question I see the love of Christ for His own: He invites them to partake of His Passion, and gives them to understand that the way to obtain the seats of His kingdom is to drink of His cup of sorrow, and to be baptized with His baptism of suffering. The cup of suffering with the baptism of blood came to one of the brothers not very long after (*Acts* xii). Thus early were the two loving hearts separated by death: one taken by violence to his Crown, the other left to drink his cup of suffering for a while, and then both brothers to join hands before the throne of God.

Who best can drink his cup of woe,
 Triumphant over pain,
 Who patient bears his cross below—
 He follows in His train.—BISHOP HEBER.



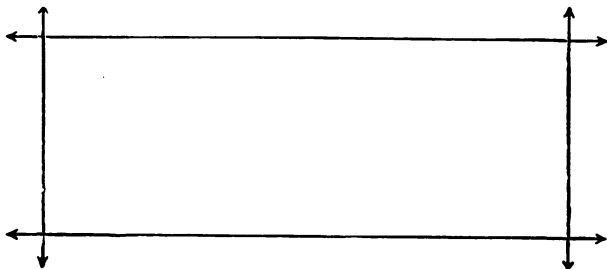
July 26.

“Let us walk in the light of the Lord.”—*Isaiah*
ii. 5.

Now to the end we may each one shine in our measure, we must learn to turn ourselves often towards Him from whom all our light is derived. Conversing with Him will make us more like Him. There is a secret, unknown virtue for His people in secret prayer and meditation. Were we more in the mount with God, our faces would shine more with men.—ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

As towards her Sun the sunflower turns,
Towards Thee, my Sun, my spirit yearns ;
Oh, would that, free from sin, I might
Thus follow evermore Thy light.

From the German.



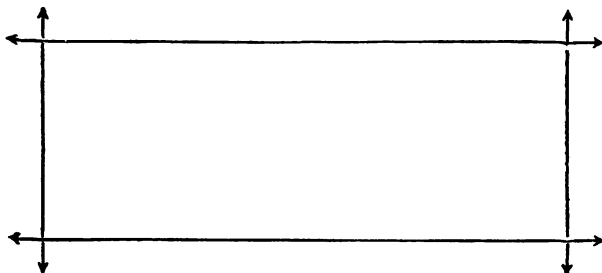
July 27.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God."—*Romans* xii. 1.

When He who gave us our life calls for it again, we can leave, as an offering on the altar of the God of our souls, the God of all the worlds, the offering of a life lived in His light, ruled by His charity—a life of duty, loyal and industrious, sincere and patient; a life in which we sought by His help to draw near to His goodness, to love and to follow it, as its glory is shown to man in the face of Jesus Christ.—DEAN CHURCH.

They leave, across the seas that roll
Between us and the Eternal Shore,
A path of light to guide the soul
There, where the parted part no more.

J. S. B. MONSELL.



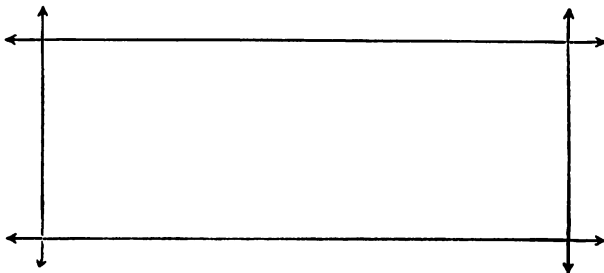
July 28.

“Christ in you, the hope of glory.”—*Col. i. 27.*

Take Christ from a thorough Christian and you take his all; not only his support and strength, but his love and hope. He is solitary; without sympathy, with an unfulfilled yearning which neither glory, nor power, nor even human affection can ultimately satisfy.

I could not do without Thee,
O Jesus, Saviour dear;
E'en when my eyes are holden,
I know that Thou art near;
How dreary and how lonely,
This changeful life would be
Without the sweet communion,
The secret rest with Thee.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



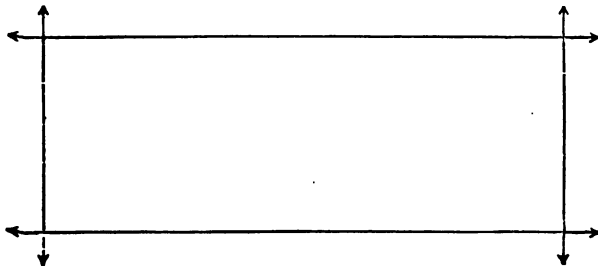
July 29.

“Walk as children of light ; . . . proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.”—*Ephes.* v. 8, 10.

A good Christian man, one honestly and with all his heart striving to be a good Christian man, is a preacher of righteousness without opening his lips, a missionary to his brethren without stirring a foot from his own door.—BISHOP MOBERLY.

We to the world Thy praise may tell
By more than words,—by living well,
And as becometh sons of light,
Walking by faith, and not by sight.

CORNISH.



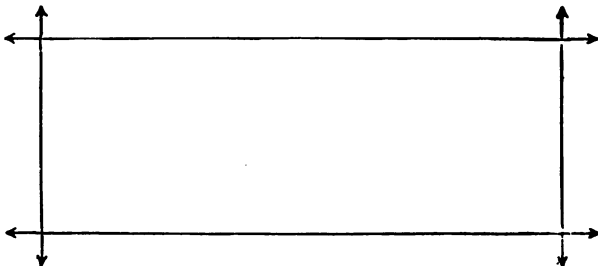
July 30.

“Certainly I will be with thee.”—*Exodus* iii. 12.

Try to realise God's Presence ; the realising it ever so little has a wonderfully soothing and calming influence on the heart. “My Presence shall go with Thee” said God to Moses ; and then immediately adds, as if that were a necessary consequence of the foregoing, “And I will give thee *rest*.”—DEAN GOULBURN.

High above the limits of my seeing,
And folded far within the inmost heart,
And deep below the deeps of conscious being,
Thy splendour shineth ; there, O God,
Thou art.

I cannot lose Thee ! still in Thee abiding
The end is clear, how wide soe'er I roam ;
The law that holds the worlds my steps is
guiding,
And I must *rest* at last in Thee, my home,
E. SCUDDER.



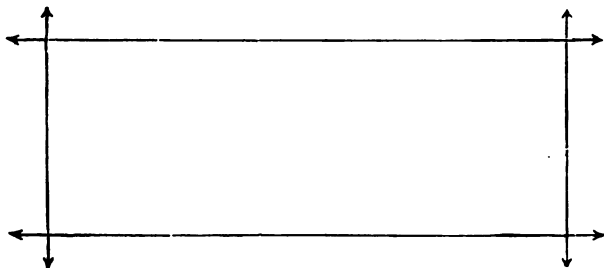
July 31.

“I know thee by name.”—*Exodus xxxiii. 17.*

God beholds thee individually whoever thou art. He sees thee and understands thee. He knows what is in thee, all thy own peculiar feelings and thoughts; thy dispositions and likings, thy strength, and thy weakness. Thou dost not love thyself better than He loves thee. Thou wast one of those for whom Christ offered up His last prayer, and sealed it with His precious blood. What a thought is this!—DR. NEWMAN.

Thou know'st our bitterness—our joys are Thine ;
No stranger Thou to all our wanderings wild :
Nor could we bear to think, how every line
Of us, Thy darken'd likeness and defiled,
Stands in full sunshine of Thy piercing eye,
But that Thou call'st us Brethren : sweet repose
Is in that word. The Lord who dwells on high
Knows all, yet loves us better than He knows.

JOHN KEBLE.

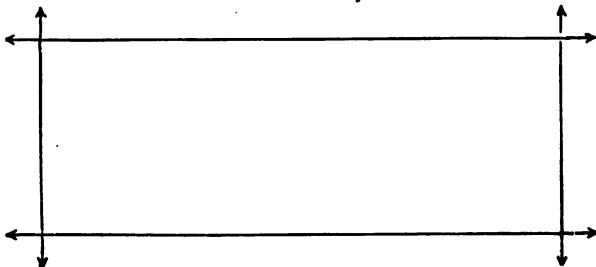


August 1.

“The time is short.”—1 *Cor.* vii. 29.

Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated. Those, therefore, that dare lose a day, are dangerously prodigal; those that dare mis-spend it, desperate. All days are His who gave time a beginning and continuance; yet some He hath made ours, not to command, but to use. In none may we forget Him; in some we must forget all beside Him.—BISHOP HALL.

Shall the God-given hours be scattered
Like the leaves upon the plain?
Shall the blossoms die unwatered
By the drops of heavenly rain?
No, I was not born to trifle
Life away in dreams or sin!
No, I must not, dare not stifle
Longings such as these within.
Then no longer idly dreaming,
Shall I fling my years away;
But each precious hour redeeming,
Wait for the eternal day!—H. BONAR.



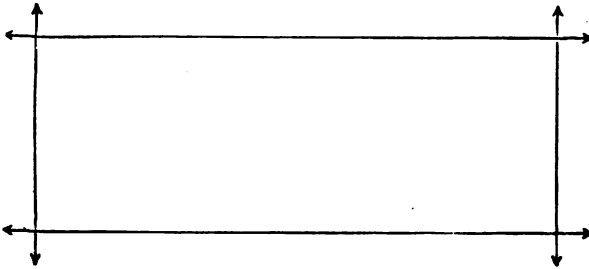
August 2.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”—*Ephes.* vi. 13.

Be thou therefore prepared for the fight, if thou wilt win the victory.—THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Fight the good fight with all thy might,
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy light;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

J. S. B. MONSELL.



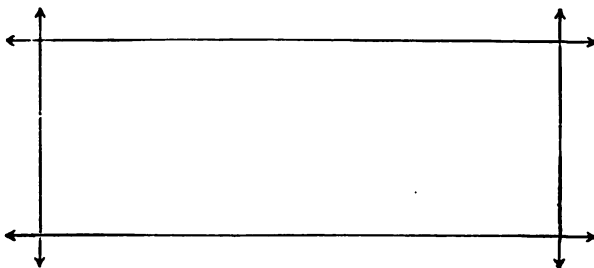
August 3.

"He that contemneth small things shall fall by little and little."—*Eccles. xix. 1.*

To neglect small things is the height of folly: it is only through acquitting ourselves well on small occasions, that we can make a sure progress in holiness, and discipline ourselves for grappling with poverty, bereavement, calls of Providence, arduous posts of responsibility, and all the great occasions of life.—DEAN GOULBURN.

And they who own this heavenly law,
Strength from all little things can draw
For great deeds yet to come:
For holy triumphs, which may prove
Their depth of faith, their height of love,
And fit them for their home.

J. S. B. MONSELL.

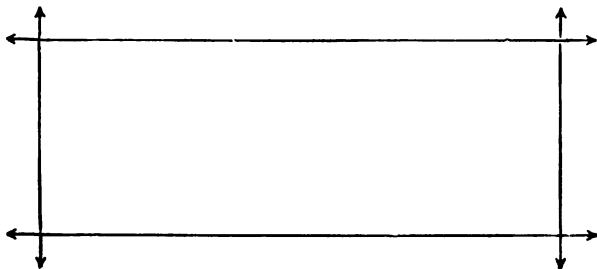


August 4.

“ Whose I am, and Whom I serve.”—*Acts* xxvii. 23.

Seek we to impress on ourselves Whose and what we are, wherever we go, whatever our calling, duties, employment, recollect we our own sacredness. Commit thyself morning by morning to God, to guard thee as His own shrine.—DR. PUSEY.

Lord, I'm not at all my own,
Nor for another free ;
Let life be a reflection
Of rays received from Thee !

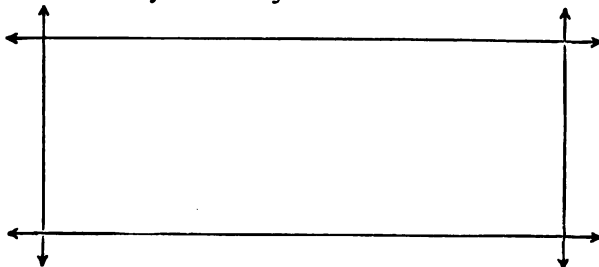


August 5.

“They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever.”—*Dan. xii. 3.*

Our gracious Redeemer permits men to hope that many will have their crowns brightened in that day by good done to others, of which they themselves were not the least aware. They went on simply doing their duty in their calling: by-and-bye they will perceive that their quiet example was made by God's grace a help towards “turning many to righteousness.”—REV. J. KEBLE.

I know thou hast believed on Me,
And life through Me is thine;
But where are all those radiant stars
That in thy Crown should shine?
Thou seest yonder glorious throng,
The stars on every brow,
For every soul they led to Me
They wear a jewel now.



August 6.

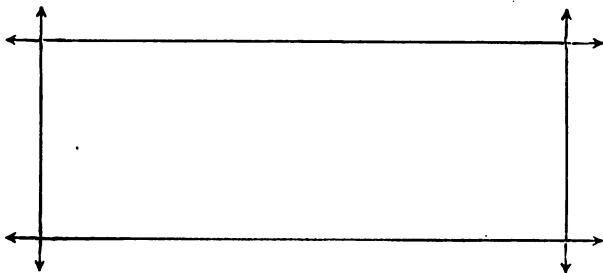
“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness.”—*St. Matt.* vi. 33.

Do not the work of God negligently and idly; let not thy heart be upon the world when thy hand is lift up in prayer; and be sure to prefer an action of religion in its place and proper season before all worldly pleasure.

BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

Then seek not happiness in things of earth,
But learn of Christ betimes the secret of her birth.
Seek thou God's Kingdom; there unsought she's found,
High in a heavenly life, not creeping on the ground.
Hearts set on things above, not things beneath,
Find what they crave around them day by day;
Souls risen with Christ, quick with His Spirit, breathe
The air of Heaven, e'en while on earth they stay,
Bearing the cross, the hidden crown they bring,
And at the tomb they hear the Easter angels sing.

W. NEWELL.



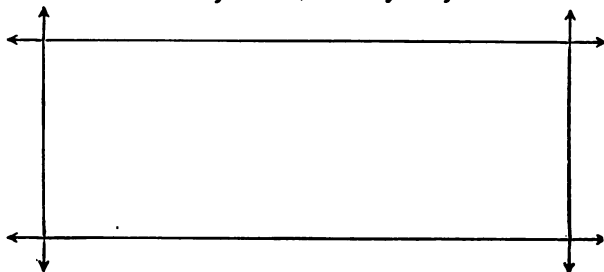
August 7.

“ Be renewed in the spirit of your mind ; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”—*Ephes.* iv. 23, 24.

Holiness is nothing else than the actual presence and life of God in a man's soul ; it is the habit of secret communion with God. Every motive is for Him, every affection given to Him, every talent consecrated to Him ; the thoughts up in Heaven, the line of conduct in the exact footsteps of Christ.

REV. J. VAUGHAN.

Draw me up, my God, from hence,
Raise me high o'er earth and sense,
That I lose not Thee from sight,
Nor in life, nor death, my Light :
In my soul's most deep recess
Let me cherish holiness,
Not for show or human praise,
But for Thy sake, all my days.—RIST.

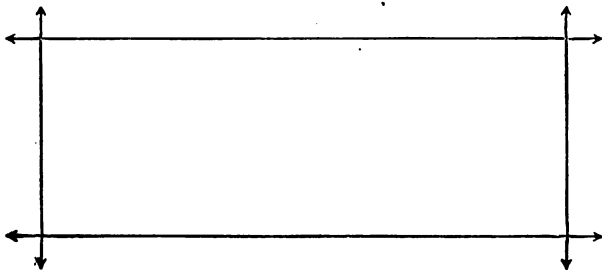


August 8.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.”—*St. Matt.* x. 29.

Our Lord teaches us as to those very little things in order that we may know and feel that nothing is too little to be ordered by our Father, nothing too little in which to see His Hand, nothing which touches our souls, too little to accept from Him, nothing too little to be done to Him.—DR. PUSEY.

Lord, make these faithless hearts of ours
Such lessons learn from birds and flowers;
Make them from self to cease.
Leave all things to a Father's Will,
And taste, before Him lying still,
E'en in affliction peace.—J. ANSTICE.



August 9.

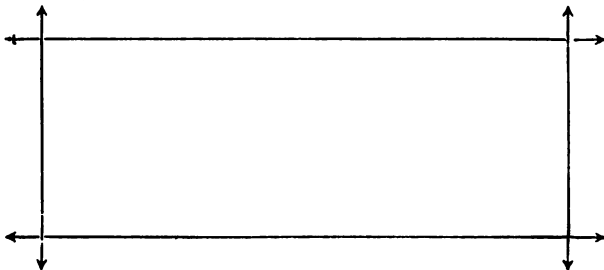
“We will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.”—*Micah* iv. 5.

Grant that I may walk before Thee in a constant awe of Thy Sacred Presence, and in such a devout and heavenly frame of mind, as may lead me to be frequently lifting up my heart to Thee in acts of adoration and thanksgiving, of resignation and dependence.

REV. J. KEBLE.

Looking upward every day,
Sunshine on our faces ;
Pressing onward every day
Toward the heavenly places.

Growing every day in awe
For Thy Name is holy ;
Learning every day to love
With a love more lowly.—M. BUTLER.



August 10.

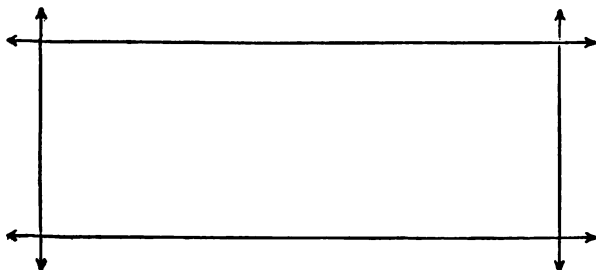
“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”—*St. Matt.* vi. 21.

Where do our views centre? In this world we are in, or that we are going to? If our hopes and joys centre here, it is a mortifying thought that we are every day departing from our happiness; but if they are fixed above, it is a joy to think that we are every day drawing nearer to the object of our highest wishes.

JOHN MASON.

One sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er,
I'm nearer home to-day
Than I have ever been before.
Nearer the bound of life
Where I lay my burden down,
Nearer leaving the Cross,
Nearer wearing the Crown.

PHŒBE CARY.



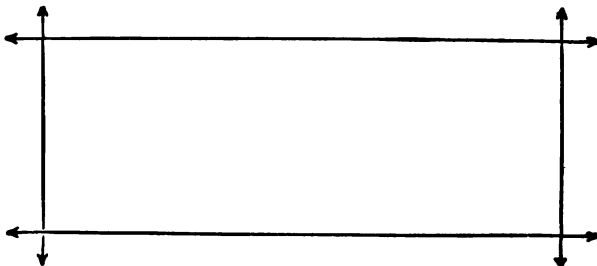
August 11.

“Forgetting those things which are behind . . .
I press towards the mark.”—*Phil.* iii. 13, 14.

There is a kind of temperament which, when indulged, greatly hinders growth in real godliness. It is that rueful, repentant, self-accusing temper, which is always looking back, and microscopically observing how that which is done might have been better done. Faith ought ever to be a sanguine, cheerful thing; and perhaps in practical life we could not give a better account of faith than by saying that it is, amidst much failure, having the heart to try again.—REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

So do I gather strength and hope anew,
For well I know Thy patient love perceives
Not what I did, but what I strove to do;
And, though the full ripe ears be sadly few,
Thou wilt accept my sheaves.

E. ALLEN.



August 12.

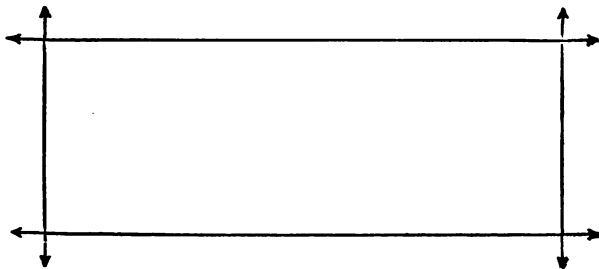
“My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.”—*Exodus xxxiii. 14.*

His Presence is most wonderfully marked by repose and silence. This too should mark our life, for as we receive our Lord, we receive Him in the same calmness. We are conformed to Him in proportion as our lives grow in quietness, His peace spreading within our own souls. Even amid all that outwardly disturbs us, we have, if we have Him, the same peace, because He is Peace sustained and sustaining our whole being.

REV. T. T. CARTER.

O rest of rests! O peace serene, eternal!
Thou ever livest, and thou changest never;
And in the secret of Thy Presence dwelleth
Fulness of joy for ever and for ever.

H. B. STOWE.



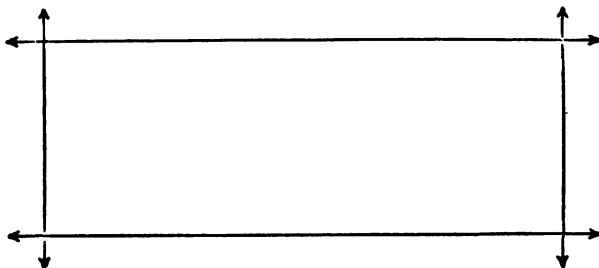
August 13.

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”—2 *Tim.* ii. 3.

You must fight, but you shall gain the victory; and God Himself, after having fought on your side, shall crown you with His own hand.—ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

Let your drooping hearts be glad;
March, in heavenly armour clad;
Fight, nor think the battle long,
Soon shall victory tune your song.
Onward then to glory move;
More than conquerors ye shall prove;
Though opposed by many a foe,
Christian soldiers, onward go!

HENRY KIRKE WHITE.



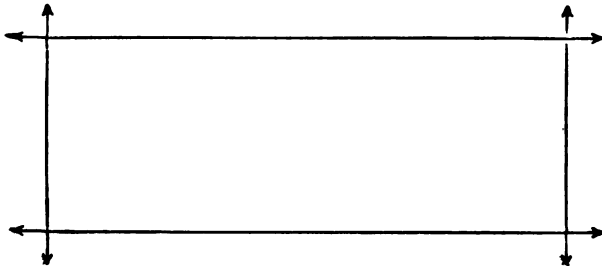
August 14.

“ Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience.”—*Heb.* v. 8.

No man shall ever be fit to govern others that knows not first how to obey : and no man can come to perfection, but by obedience ; and thousands of saints have chosen such institutions and manners of living, in which they might not choose their own work, not follow their own will, but be subject to discipline, and obedient to commands, as knowing this to be the highway of the Cross, the way that the King of sufferings and humility did choose, and so became the King of Glory.

BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

Then He learned to be obedient ;
And with simple winning grace
In the precincts of that cottage
He has filled a child's true place.
In Thy life I would be hidden ;
From self-seeking let me cease ;
Breathe upon me from Thy Childhood
Its utterable peace.—C. M. NOEL.



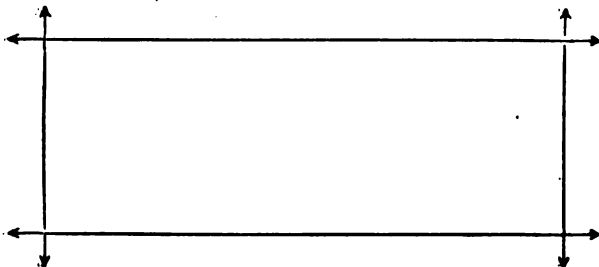
August 15.

“Not with eye-service, as men pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing God.”—*Col.* iii. 22.

There is a true dignity in manual service, in daily labour, in the commonest employments, if they are prompted and directed by high motives ; and this sets the seal of greatness on the life.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE

The highest duties oft are found
Lying upon the lowest ground ;
In hidden and unnoticed ways,
In household works, on common days ;
Whate'er is done for God alone
Thy God acceptable will own.

J. S. B. MONSELL.

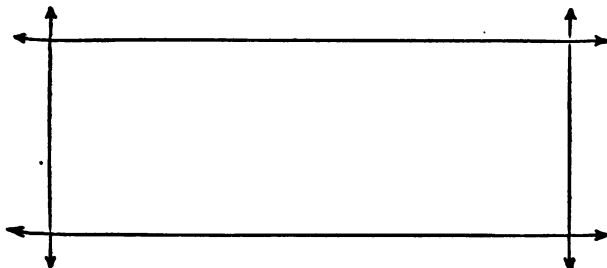


August 16.

"I will make all My goodness to pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before thee."—*Exodus xxxiii.* 19.

When for a moment once or twice in your life you have caught a distant, faint, evanescent glimpse of the reality of God ; when, in some season of distress and desolation, you have seriously and earnestly said to Him, I beseech Thee show me Thy Glory, fill this void with Thyself, as a real, living, loving and present God, and the prayer seemed to be heard ; was there ever a moment so bright in memory, so thrilling in its enjoyment, as that moment?—DEAN VAUGHAN.

And when, the tempest passing by,
He gleams out, sunlike, through the sky,
We look up and, through black clouds riven,
We recognise the smile of heaven.



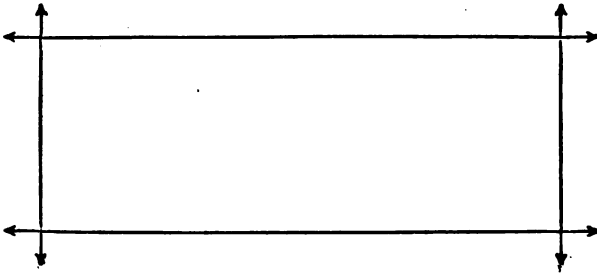
August 17.

“I have chosen you.”—*St. John xv. 16.*

He has chosen us; and choice is the highest act of love. He prepared a fortune for us, marked out a life, measured our sorrows to us with wise love, and tempered our joys so that they might not be an injury. He gave us a work, clothed us with a vocation, and destined for us a particular crown and place in heaven.—F. W. FABER.

Chose them in Christ, that they should prove
The trophies of His dying Love;
Chose them through faith, that precious grace
Which bears the fruits of righteousness;
Chose them that they on earth should shine,
The Image of His face divine.

INGRAM COBBIN.



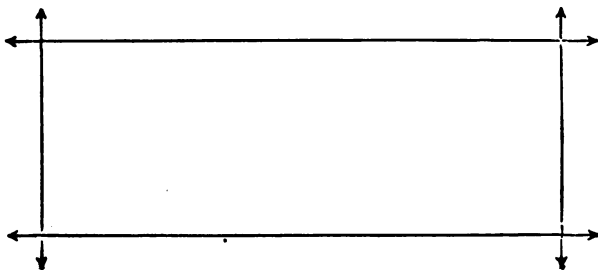
August 18.

“Consider the work of God.”—*Eccles.* vii. 13.

Nature is infinitely more wonderful than the highest art ; and in the commonest hedge-side leaf lies a mystery and beauty greater than that of the greatest picture, the noblest statue ; as infinitely greater as God's work is infinitely greater than man's.

REV. C. KINGSLEY.

There's nothing bright above, below,
From flowers that bloom, to stars that glow,
But in its light my soul can see
Some feature of Thy Deity.
There's nothing dark below, above,
But in its gloom I trace Thy love,
And calmly wait the moment when
Thy touch shall make all bright again.



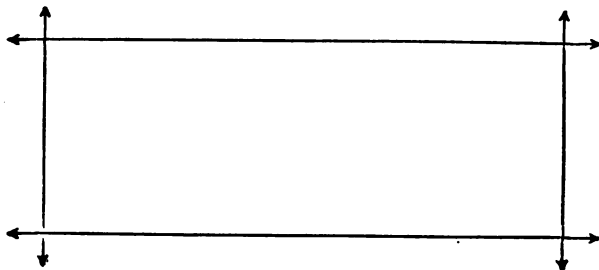
August 19.

“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.”—*Col.*
iii. 15.

One great secret of success in the Christian warfare, is quietness of mind. Without interior peace, there is no such thing as true religion.—DEAN GOULBURN.

Springs of peace, when conflict heightens,
Thine uplifted eyes shall see ;
Peace that strengthens, calms, and brightens,
Peace itself a victory.
Springs of comfort, strangely springing
From the bitter wells of woe ;
Fount of hidden gladness, bringing
Joy that earth can ne'er bestow.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



August 20.

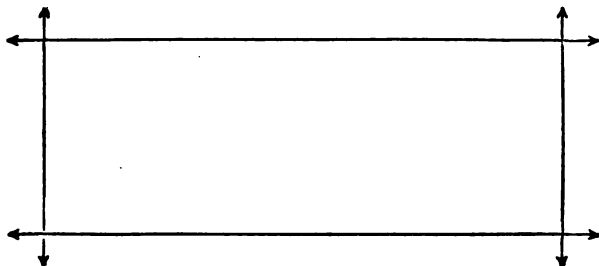
“I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.”—*Gal. ii. 20.*

Let us seek, day by day, to grow in virtues; and then if we can trace though but a faint yet growing reflection of the Christ-life in ourselves, we may trust He is beginning to see in us of the travail of His soul; and let us never forget that the measure of our likeness to the Cross of Calvary will be the measure of the radiance of our crown in glory.

REV. W. H. HUTCHINGS.

We would put on Thy likeness—we the least
And most unworthy! Ah! each piercing thorn
In Thy name patiently and meekly worn,
Shall bear a blossom for the bridal feast.
Look down, O Brother, with the yearning eyes
Behold us kneeling at Thy bitter Cross;
Grant us a share in all thy earthly loss
That we may share Thy throne in Paradise.

ADA CAMBRIDGE.

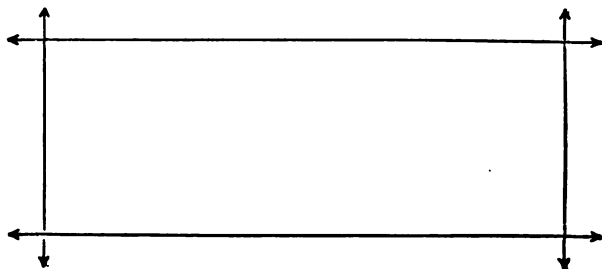


August 21.

“Our conversation is in heaven.”—*Phil.* iii. 20.

If your soul is habitually fixed on Heaven, and the things of God, it will sit very loose to the things of this life, passing through them, and fulfilling all needful duties without being absorbed or captivated by them; untrammelled by the world's perplexities, the sound of which scarcely penetrates within that higher spiritual atmosphere in which you will live.—GUILLORÉ.

Thus, till the heavens receive us, shall we be
Like children, finding all our joys in Thee;
And though the tears of sorrow oft must fall
Yet, if Thou to our hearts art all in all,
Sweet peace will come.—C. GREGORY.



August 22.

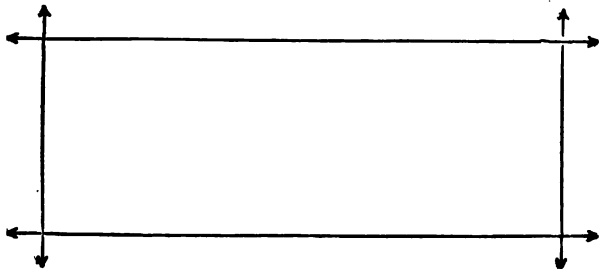
“Fret not thyself. Hold thee still in the Lord.”
—*Psalms* xxxvii. 1, 7 (P. B.)

Probably if we could do our work in a
righter and less anxious spirit, it would wear
is less. It is worry, not work, that wears.

DEAN GOULBURN.

O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free ;
Tell me Thy secret ; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.
Teach me Thy patience ; still with Thee
In closer, dearer company ;
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.
In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With Thee, O Master, let me live !

W. GLADDEN.



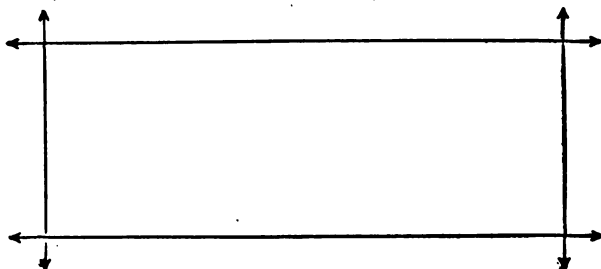
August 23.

“If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.”—*St. James* iii. 2.

Few men suspect how much mere talk fritters away spiritual energy: that which should be spent in action, spends itself in words. Hence he who restrains that love of talk, lays up a fund of spiritual strength. Remember Christ in the judgment hall, the very symbol and incarnation of spiritual strength; and yet when revilings were loud around Him and charges were multiplied ‘He held His peace.’—REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Prune thou thy words, the thoughts control
That o’er thee swell and throng;
They will condense within thy soul,
And change to purpose strong.

J. H. NEWMAN.



August 24.

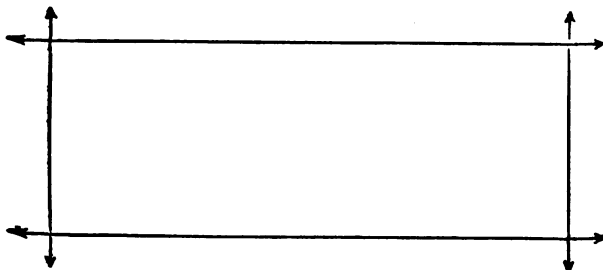
(S. Bartholomew the Apostle.)

“In whom is no guile.”—*St. John i. 47.*

See what a Christian is, drawn by the Hand of Christ. He is a man on whose clear and open brow God has set the stamp of truth ; one whose very eye beams bright with honour ; in whose very look and bearing you may see freedom, manliness, veracity ; a brave man, a noble man—frank, generous, true ; with, it may be, many faults, whose freedom may take the form of impetuosity or rashness, but the form of meanness never. It is a manly thing to be a Christian.—REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

So still the guileless man is blest,
To him all crookèd paths are straight,
Him on his way to endless rest
Fresh, ever-growing strengths await.

JOHN KEBLE.



August 25.

“Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.”—*St. Matt.* vi. 32.

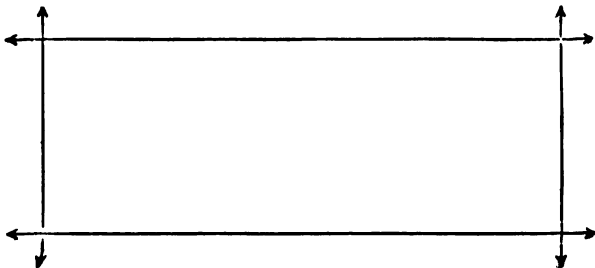
How sweetly doth He correct our prayers,
and while He doth not give us what we ask,
gives us better than we asked.

BISHOP HALL.

When we disclose our wants in prayer
May we our wills resign ;
And not a thought our bosoms share,
Which is not wholly Thine.

May faith each weak petition fill,
And waft it to the skies,
And teach our hearts 'tis goodness still
That grants it or denies.

REV. J. D. CARLYLE.



August 26.

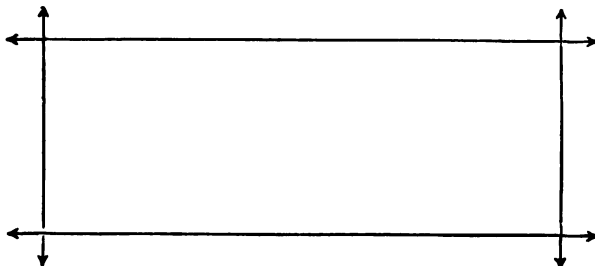
“A good soldier of Jesus Christ.”—2 *Tim.* ii. 3.

You then, beloved, following your heavenly Captain, who for you has overcome the world, give yourself with a courageous heart to the battle and to the utter destruction of all your foes.—LORENZO SCUPOLI.

Though many foes beset your road
And feeble is your arm,
Your life is hid with Christ in God
Beyond the reach of harm.

As surely as He overcame
And triumphed once for you,
So surely you that love His name
Shall triumph in Him too!

J. NEWTON.



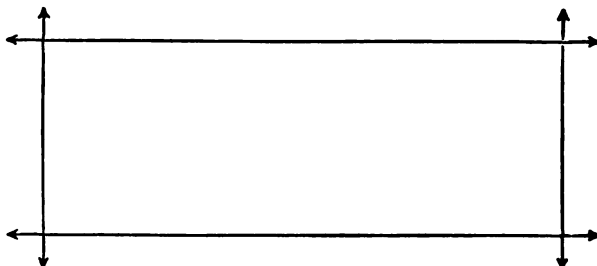
August 27.

“I am crucified with Christ : nevertheless I live ; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me : and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.”—*Gal. ii. 20.*

Death to the world is life to God ; the life in God deadens to the world. The less we live for things outward, the stronger burns our inward life. The more we live amid the distractions of the world, the less vivid is the life of the soul.—DR. PUSEY.

Thus would I live ; yet now
Not I, but He
In all His power and love
Henceforth alive in me.

REV. EDWARD CASWALL.



August 28.

“Let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith.”—*Heb. x. 22.*

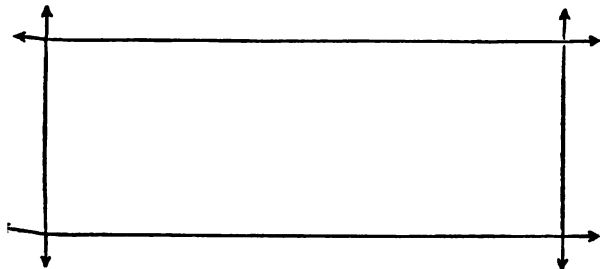
Let us pray with faith; that is, with a hearty and thorough belief that our prayers are heard and answered. This is the one great want in prayer. We want a sincere belief, a deep, strong feeling that God is listening to us when we pray. This is the only thing that can make our prayers real and true.—BISHOP WALSHAM HOW.

Faith is sweetest of worship to Him who so loves

His unbearable splendours in darkness to hide:

And to trust to Thy word, dearest Lord, is true love,

For those prayers are most granted which seem most denied.—F. W. FABER.



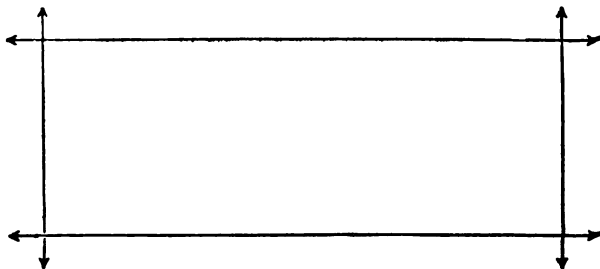
August 29.

“While I live will I praise the Lord; I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.”
Psalm cxlvi. 2.

We praise God at intervals with our lips but our whole life should be a ceaseless song of praise.—St. AUGUSTINE.

While I bear life's burden still
 With cheerful mind and voice, I will
 No longer hide Thy grace.
 My heart shall ever more and more
 Thy goodness and Thy love adore
 Here and in every place.
 Choose me to bloom in Paradise,
 And till in death I close mine eyes,
 Let soul and body thrive;
 Being to Thee, and to Thy praise,
 To Thee alone, my life-long days,
 In earth and heaven alive.

PAUL GERHARDT.



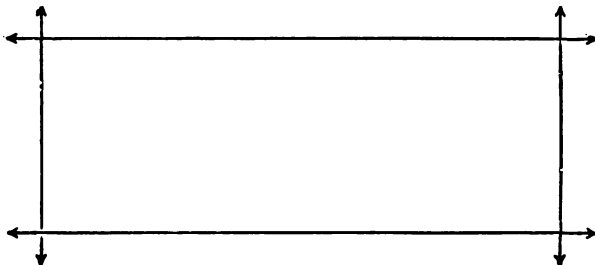
August 30.

“Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”—1 Cor. vi. 19, 20.

Behold, He breathed into you your souls, and stamped His image upon them ; give it Him back again, not clipped, not defaced, but representing His own graces unto Him in all holiness and purity. And His Hands did form and fashion your bodies, and in His book are all your members written ; let the glory of God be set forth and written as it were, upon every one of them.—REV. A. FARINDON.

We are the Lord’s—in life and death His own,
Bought with a wondrous price, His precious blood ;
We are the Lord’s, Who left His glorious throne
To make us children and the heirs of God.
We are the Lord’s—to Him then will we live,
Gladly we echo back the joyful words,
And heart and hand and mouth true witness give
In body and in soul—we are the Lord’s.

From the German.



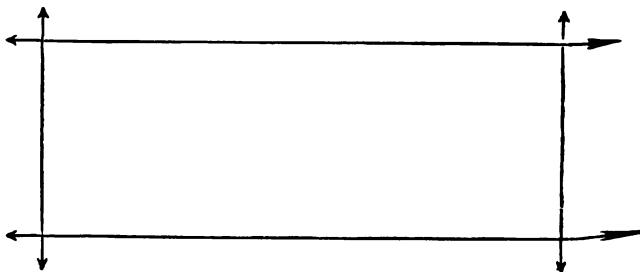
August 31.

“When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret.”—*St. Matt.* vi. 6.

In loneliness a man knows himself and his God. Enter then with Him, and by His grace thou wilt not come forth as thou goest in.—DR. PUSEY. _____

Therefore we come, Thy gentle call obeying,
And lay our sins and sorrows at Thy feet,
On everlasting strength our weakness staying,
Clothed in Thy robe of righteousness
complete;
Then, rising and refreshed, we leave Thy
throne
And follow on, to know as we are known.

H. L. L.



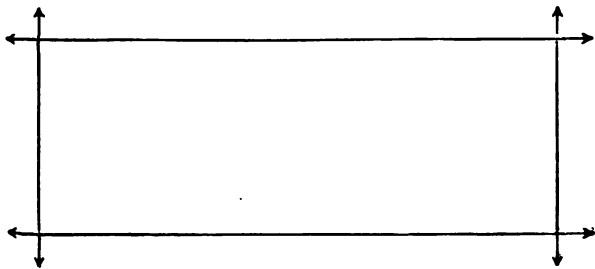
September 1.

“Thy Father, which seeth in secret, Himself shall reward thee openly.”—*St. Matt.* vi. 4.

Every action that is done only to be seen of others, loses its freshness in the sight of God: like the flower that, passing through many hands, is at last hardly presentable. Oh! my soul, be as the desert flower, that grows, blooms, and flourishes unseen, in obedience to God's will, and cares not whether the passing bird perceives it, or the wind scatters the petals scarcely formed.
—*From the French.*

Seeking this
Alone, the approbation of His God,
Which still with conscience witnessed to his
peace,
This, this is freedom such as angels use,
And kindred to the liberty of God.

ROBERT POLLOK.



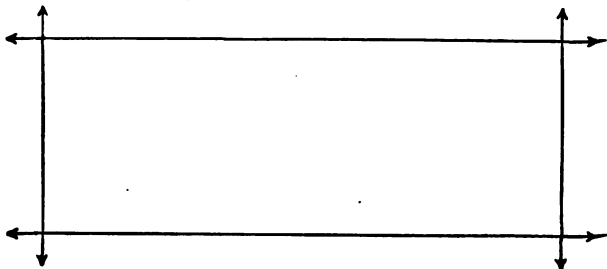
September 2.

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord?
or who shall stand in his holy place? He that
hath clean hands and a pure heart.”—*Psalm*
xxiv. 3, 4.

I seek a pure heart, and there is the place
of my rest.—THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Lord, we Thy presence seek ;
May ours this blessing be ;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for Thee.

JOHN KEBLE.



September 3.

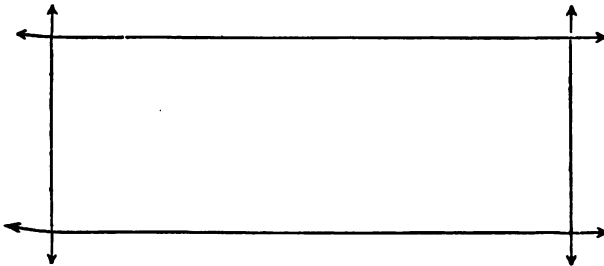
“Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”—
1 Cor. xv. 58.

It is a far nobler frame of mind to labour, not with the hope of seeing the fruits of our labour, but for conscience's sake, as a matter of duty; and again, in faith, trusting good *will* be done, though we see it not. The time for reaping what we have sown is hereafter, not here; here there is no great visible fruit in any one man's life-time.

DR. NEWMAN.

Sow; and look onward, upward
When the starry light appears,
Where, in spite of the coward's doubts
Or your own heart's trembling fears,
You shall reap in joy the harvest
You have sown to-day in tears.

A. A. PROCTER.

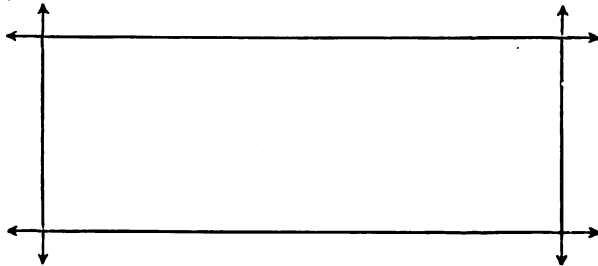


September 4.

“We wait for light.”—*Isaiah* lix. 9.

Here we must grope on more or less in darkness, we have not perfect light, but we strive for light. And if in life we have striven and sought for light, striven against error in all its forms, and sought illumination to mind and soul, then one day the veil which obscures the perfect Light will be taken away, and we shall know even as we are known, we shall arise and shine with the Light of lights which surrounds and fills us.—REV. S. BARING-GOULD.

Darkness and mystery a little while,
Then—light and glory;
And ministry 'mid seraph band,
And service of high praise in the Eternal
Land.—F. R. HAVERGAL.



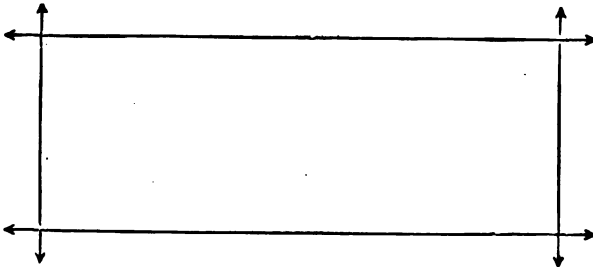
September 5.

“ Understanding what the will of the Lord is.”—
Ephes. v. 17.

Lord Jesus, without reserve, limitation, or exception, may Thy Holy Will be done everywhere, and in all things! Truly this is a spiritual lesson, but it is taught us by the most Holy Spirit.—ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.

So now herself my soul
Would wholly give
Into His sacred charge
In Whom all spirits live.
So now beneath His eye
Would calmly rest,
Without a wish or thought
Abiding in the breast;
Save that His Will be done
Whate'er betide,
Dead to herself, and dead
In Him to all beside.

EDWARD CASWALL.



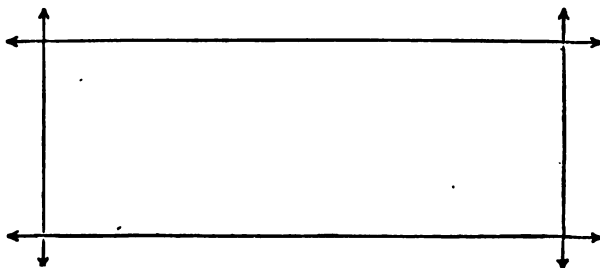
September 6.

“I foresaw the Lord always before my face.”—
Acts ii. 25.

The contemplation of God, and nothing but it, is able fully to open and relieve the mind, to unlock, occupy, and fix our affections. None but the presence of our Maker can enter us; for to none besides can the whole heart in all its thoughts and feelings be unlocked and subjected.—DR. NEWMAN.

Let such a sense of Thee,
Thy watching presence, Thy sustaining love,
His bosom guest inalienably be,
That wheresoe'er he move
A heavenly light serene
Upon his heart and mien
May sit undimmed! a gladness rest, his own,
Unspeakable, and to the world unknown.

FELICIA HEMANS.



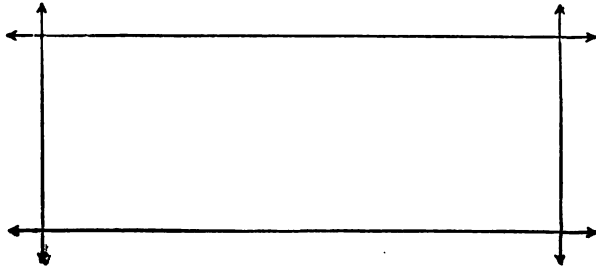
September 7.

“I in them, and thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one.”—*St. John* xvii. 23.

Union with Christ is the highest aspiration of every mind, quickened by the Holy Spirit to a sense of the spiritual world; all prayer, meditation and communion has this object for its end.—GUILLORÉ.

Make me pure, that I may be
Able to be one with Thee,
And reveal Thyself, for Thou
Art the thing I long for now.
When the veil at last is riven,
To behold Thee will be Heaven.

C. M. NOEL.



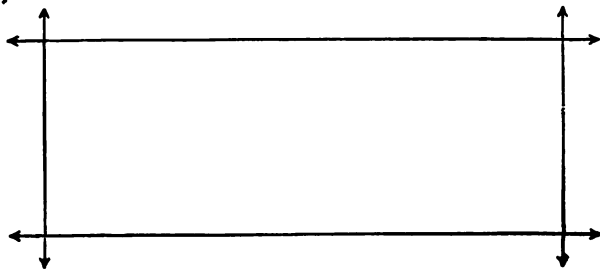
September 8.

“If thou seek Him, He will be found of thee.”—
Chron. xxviii. 9.

If we have ever so little sincere desire to serve Him, and to be His, is it not absolutely certain, from the whole tenour of His words and deeds, that He will meet us more than half-way. For every responsibility which we have to meet, He offers to qualify us. For every height which we have to climb, He furnishes an inward strength.—DEAN GOULBURN.

Such is this steep ascent,
 That it is ever difficult at first;
 But more a man proceeds, less evil grows.
 When pleasant it shall seem to thee
 As in a vessel to go down the tide,
 Then of this path thou wilt have reached the
 end—
 There hope to rest thee from thy toil.

DANTE.



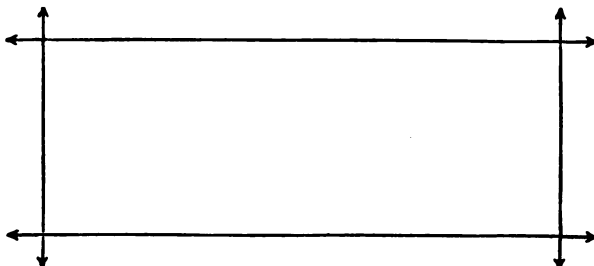
September 9.

“Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.”—*St. Matt.* xxviii. 20.

Let it be a fixed axiom of life, “Christ is with me every where.” Do not measure it, do not treat it like the uncertainties of this little world. Time lays no hand upon it; no shade of altered feeling ever comes to darken it; no parting hour will ever sadden it with a last farewell; but from eternity to eternity again—as yesterday, so to-day—as to-day so to-morrow, and as to-morrow so for ever and ever.—REV. J. VAUGHAN.

I could not do without Thee,
O Jesus, Saviour dear;
E'en when my eyes are holden,
I know that Thou art near;
How dreary, and how lonely
This changeful life would be,
Without the sweet communion,
The secret rest with Thee.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



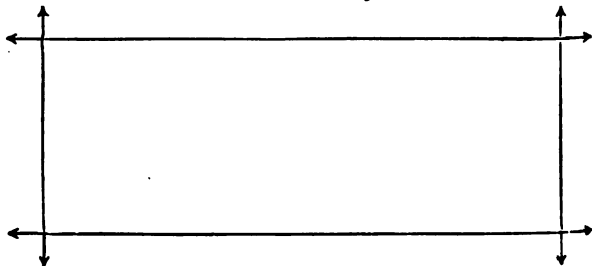
September 10.

“I will mention the loving-kindnesses of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord hath bestowed on us.”—*Isaiah* lxiii. 7.

Those who are training themselves to give thanks, who are rejoicing to give “thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” can sing and make melody in their heart to the Lord, though they never learnt a note of earthly music.—CANON JELF.

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries
May Jesus Christ be praised :
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair ;
May Jesus Christ be praised.

EDWARD CASWALL,
from the German.

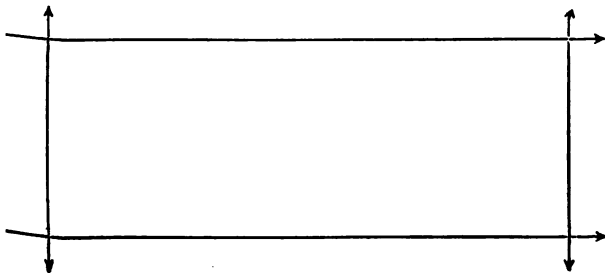


September 11.

“Go work to-day in my vineyard.”—*St. Matt.*
xi. 28.

Every day should be distinguished by at least one particular act of love.—LAVATER.

Be brave, my brother!
Enlarge thy heart and soul,
Spread out thy free, glad love;
Encompass earth, embrace the sea,
As does that sky above.
Let no man see thee stand
In slothful idleness,
As if there were not work for thee
In such a wilderness.—H. BONAR.



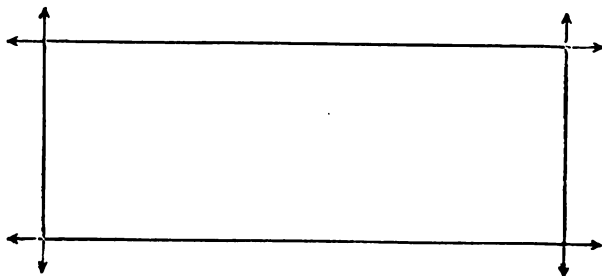
September 12.

“The Lord your God, He it is that fighteth for you, as He hath promised you.”—*Joshua xxiii. 10.*

Our life is a perpetual combat; but it is a conflict in which Jesus Christ fights with us on our side.—ARCHBISHOP FÉNELON.

Go forward, Christian soldier,
Beneath His banner true;
The Lord Himself thy Leader,
Shall all thy foes subdue.
Go forward, Christian soldier;
Nor dream of peaceful rest,
Till Satan's host is vanquished
And Heaven is all possessed.

REV. L. TUTTIETT.

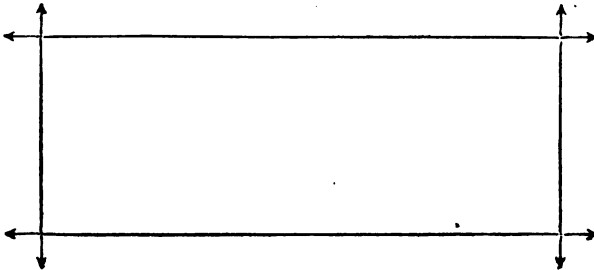


September 13.

“Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.”—*St. Mark xiii. 33.*

Morning by morning, let us place before ourselves that morning which has no evening, and purpose we to do that and that only which we shall wish we had done, when we shall see it in the brightness of His Presence, and every plea of self-love which now clouds our eyes shall melt away—DR. PUSEY.

Oh then, since I thus live,
 Certain of death, uncertain of the day,
 This grace to me, immortal Saviour, give,
 In Thy dear love, I pray—
 That whatsoe'er befall
 Of good or ill, I evermore may be
 Ready, whenever sounds Thy solemn call
 At once to answer Thee.



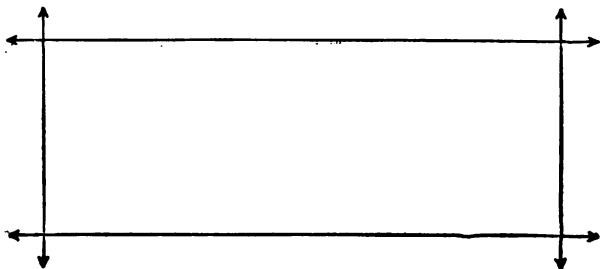
September 14.

“The upright shall dwell in Thy Presence.”—
Psalm cxi. 13.

Everywhere thou mayest find God, and converse with Him, and ‘lift up holy hands’ unto Him. In every place thou art within the sight of home, and heaven is in thine eye, and thou art conversing with God in whose converse the highest angels place their most transcendant felicity.—BAXTER.

Amid the busy city, thronged and gay
But One I see ;
Tasting sweet peace, as unobserved I pray
Alone with Thee.
O happy life ! Life hid with Christ in God
So making me,
At home, and by the wayside, and abroad,
Alone with Thee !

E. PRENTISS.



September 15.

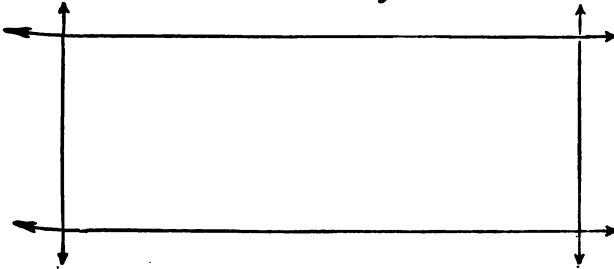
"Let me hear Thy voice, for sweet is Thy voice."—*Song of Solomon* ii. 14.

A soul that delights to speak to God, will find that He also delights to speak to it. And **this** communication certainly is the sweetest **and** happiest choice, to speak little with men **and** much with God.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Each moment draw from earth away
My heart that lowly waits Thy call ;
Speak to my inmost soul, and say
I am thy Life, thy God, thy All ;
To feel Thy power, to hear Thy voice,
To taste Thy love, be all my choice.

JOHN WESLEY
from the German.



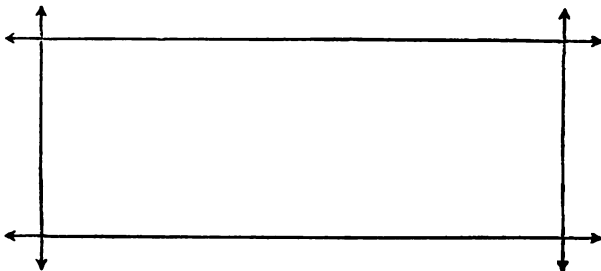
September 16.

“In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.”—*Isaiah xxx. 15.*

He who has found his soul's life in God has a secret joy which is beyond the reach of temptation, unrest, and sorrow ; a quiet confidence and steadfastness which abide even while the waves and storms of life sweep over him. God has promised, not that he shall be free from crosses—rather do they form the ladder by which the soul mounts upwards ;—but that He will abide with his faithful servants through all.—JEAN N. GROU.

Calm as the ray of sun or star
Which storms assail in vain,
Moving unruffled thro' earth's roar
The eternal calm to gain.

H. BONAR.



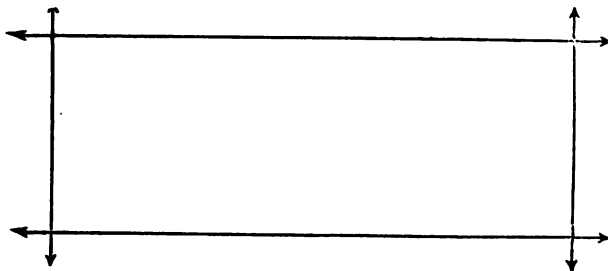
September 17.

“Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”—
I *Cor.* ix. 25.

I know that I must strive before I can “enter in at the strait gate.” I must win the crown before I can wear it; and be a member of the Church Militant before I be admitted to the Church Triumphant. BISHOP BEVERIDGE.

‘Soon and for ever,’ the race shall be run,
The warfare accomplished, the victory won.
‘Soon and for ever,’ the soldier lay down
His sword for a harp, and his cross for a
Crown.

Then droop not in sorrow, despond not in fear,
A glorious to-morrow is ripening near
When, blessed results of each faithful endeavour,
Christians with Christ shall be ‘soon and for
ever.’—J. S. B. MONSELL.



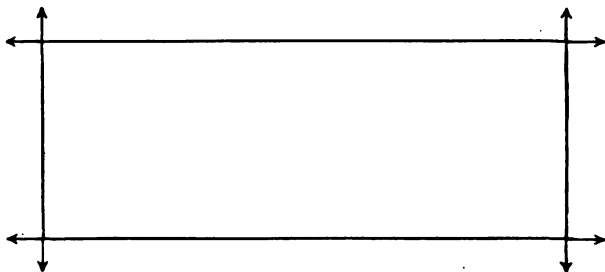
September 18.

“Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God.”—1 *Chron.* xxii. 19.

Our life must be given to God as well as our heart ; it is not giving too much to give Him both.—ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

Lord, help me to obey :
Break Thou the chains of earth, O Lord,
Which bind and hold my heart ;
Let it be Thine and Thine alone,
Let none with Thee have part :
Send down, O Lord, Thy sacred fire,
Consume and cleanse the sin
That lingers still within its depths ;
Let heavenly love begin.
That sacred flame Thy Saints have known
Kindle, O Lord, in me ;
Thou above all the rest for ever,
And all the rest in Thee.

A. A. PROCTER.



September 19.

"God is love."—1 *St. John* iv. 8.

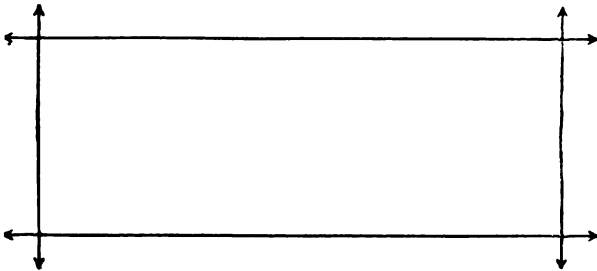
It is sweet to think of the web of love
which God is hourly weaving round every
soul He has created on the earth.

F. W. FABER.

God is love ; His mercy brightens
All the path in which we rove ;
Bliss He makes, and woes He lightens,
God is wisdom, God is love.

He with earthly cares entwined
Hope and comfort from above ;
Everywhere His glory shineth ;
God is wisdom, God is love.

SIR JOHN BOWRING.



September 20.

“Stand fast . . . in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.”—*Gal.* v. 1.

Give me, O Lord, a steadfast heart which
no unworthy affection can drag downward.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS.

We are soldiers of Christ, Who is mighty to
save,

And his banner, the Cross, is unfurled ;
We are pledged to be faithful, and steadfast,
and brave,

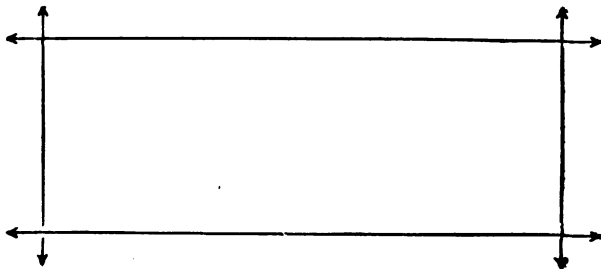
Against Satan, the flesh, and the world.

Though the warfare be weary, the trial be
sore,

In the might of our God we will stand ;
Oh, what joy to be crowned with the pure
evermore

In the peace of our own Fatherland !

REV. T. B. POLLOCK.



September 21.

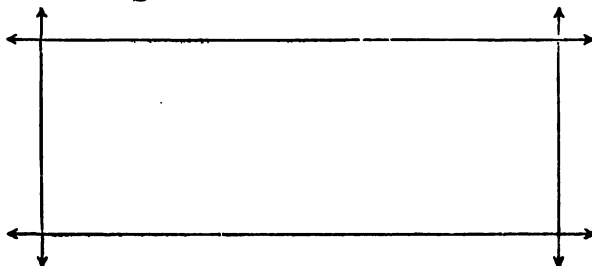
(S. Matthew the Apostle.)

“And he left all, rose up and followed Him.”—
St. Luke v. 28.

According to the world's way of looking at things, his conduct might seem rash, unbusiness-like, absurd. But there was that within him which whispered a higher wisdom than that of the world's maxim. Jesus spake and Matthew heard. And all life was changed for him thenceforward : Matthew the publican became St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist. From that memorable moment he followed Christ, and hereafter he shall follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.

REV. J. R. VERNON.

Earth's fleeting joys he counted naught,
For higher, truer joys he sought ;
And now, with Angels round Thy Throne,
Unfading treasures are his own.



September 22.

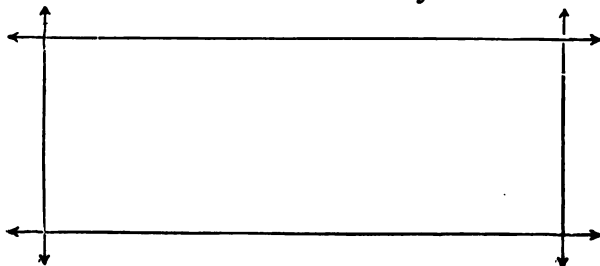
“I will hearken what the Lord God will say concerning me; for He shall speak peace unto his people.”—*Psalm lxxxv. 8* (P. B.)

You must often silence yourself in order to hearken to the Master speaking within, and teaching you all His truths. He often speaks to those who listen faithfully; and when we do not hear His secret familiar Voice within, it is a proof that we do not hush ourselves duly to hearken.

ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

O let me hear Thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to re-assure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou Guardian of my soul.

REV. J. E. BODE.

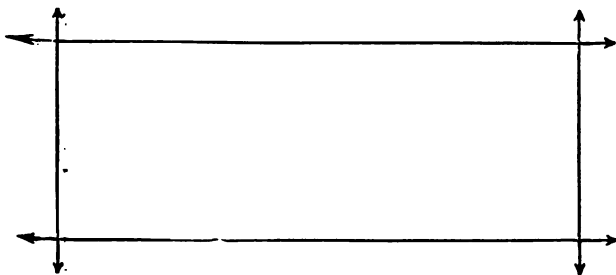


September 23.

“They shall fight, because the Lord is with them.”—*Zech. x. 5.* —

We are soldiers of a heavenly King, and are clad with spiritual arms. We are become soldiers, not of them that are far off, but of them that are near; for if God is present everywhere, to him that strives and is in earnest, He is near.—ST. CHRYSOSTOM.

Be Thou my leader to the field,
My head in battle arm;
Be Thou a breastplate and a shield,
To keep my soul from harm;
For, live or die,
I will rely
On Thee, O Lord, alone;
And in this trust,
Though fall I must,
I cannot be undone.—G. WITHER.



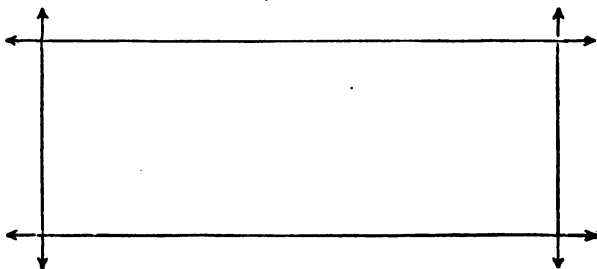
September 24.

“If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”—*St. John* xiii. 17.

It may be that we are called to very humble duties very low down in the social scale. Still even they are held from God, and constitute a stewardship; and the one talent which qualifies us for them will have to be accounted for as much as if it were ten talents. To regard the business attaching to any station of life as insignificant, is as unreasonable as it is unscriptural.

DEAN GOULBURN.

Teach us, Master, how to give
All we have and are to Thee;
Grant us, Saviour, while we live
Wholly, only Thine to be.
Henceforth be our calling high,
Thee to serve and glorify,
Thine for ever, not our own,—
Thine for ever, Thine alone!



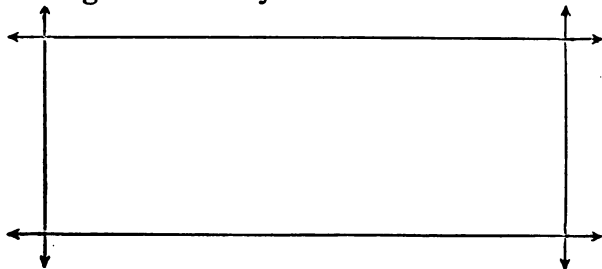
September 25.

“Charity never faileth.”—1 *Cor.* xiii. 8.

Love is its own perennial fount of strength. The strength of affection is a proof not of the worthiness of the object, but of the largeness of the soul which loves. Love descends, not ascends. The Saviour loved His disciples infinitely more than His disciples loved Him, because His heart was infinitely larger. Love trusts on, ever hopes and expects better things, and this, a trust springing from itself and out of its own deeps alone.

REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

O Thou, who keep'st the key of love,
Open Thy fount, eternal Dove,
And overflow this heart of mine,
Enlarging as it fills with Thee ;
Till in one blaze of charity
Care and remorse are lost, like motes in
light divine.—JOHN KEBLE.

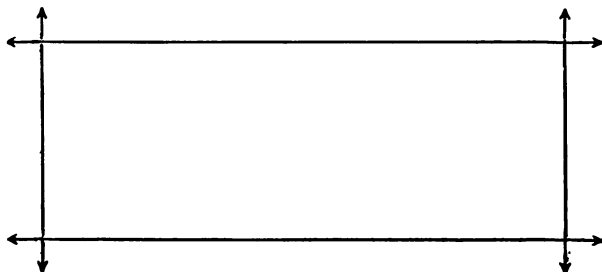


September 26.

"We are strangers before Thee, and sojourners,
as were all our fathers."—1 *Chron.* xxix. 15.

Wheresoever thou mayest be, thou art a
stranger and pilgrim; why dost thou here
gaze about, since this is not the place of
thy rest? In Heaven ought to be thy home,
and all earthly things are to be looked upon
as it were by the way.—THOMAS À KEMPIS.

We have no home but Heaven;—we want
no home beside;
O God, our Friend and Father, our footsteps
thither guide;
Unfold to us its glory, prepare us for its joy,
Its pure and perfect friendship, its angel-like
employ.



September 27.

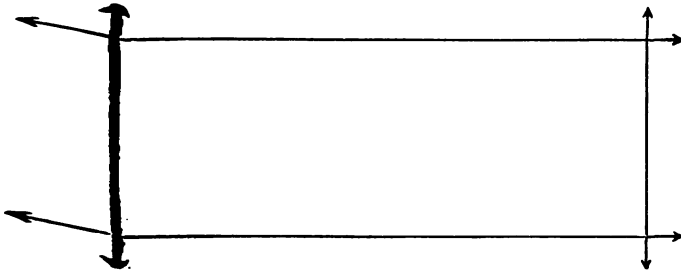
“Stand fast in the Lord.”—*Phil.* iv. 1.

What words for us to use! for us failing, restless, capricious creatures. There is, blessed be God, even such a gift as this in Heaven's treasury for every one who will indeed seek heartily to make it his own, this gift of the grace which wins the crown, and which wafts the rescued soul into the everlasting haven.

BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

“Come unto Me ye fainting,
And I will give you life.”
O cheering voice of Jesus,
Which comes to aid our strife;
The foe is stern and eager,
The fight is fierce and long;
But He has made us mighty,
And stronger than the strong.

W. C. DIX.



S

September 28.

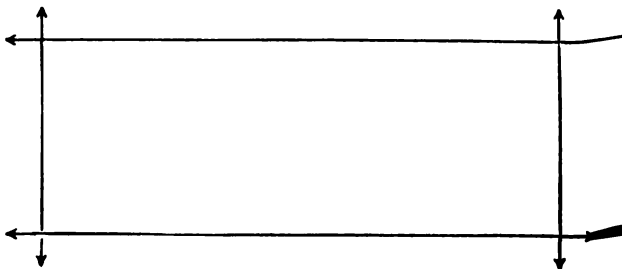
“ When He giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?—*Job xxxiv. 29.*

Thou givest quietness of heart, and much peace and pleasant joy.—**THOMAS A KEMPIS.**

There is no lasting calm,
There is no perfect rest until the love,
Weary of broken reeds, has turned to lean
Only on Thy strong arm.

For Thee oh ! let me live ;
Telling of Thine all-satisfying love,
Till other hungry souls shall seek in Thee
The joy none else can give.

H. W. G.



September 29.

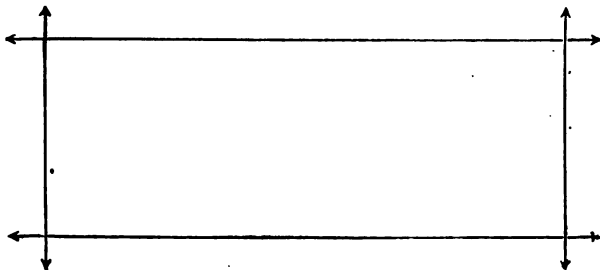
(S. Michael and all Angels).

“He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.”—*Psalms* xci. 11.

O ye blessed spirits, ye are ever by me, ever with me, ever about me; I do as good as see you to be there, I reverence your glorious persons, I bless God for you, I walk awfully because I am ever in your eyes; I walk confidently, because I am ever in your hands.

BISHOP HALL.

They are evermore around us
Though unseen to mortal sight,
In the golden hours of sunshine
And in sorrow's starless night,
Deep'ning earth's most sacred pleasures
With the peace of sin forgiven,
Whisp'ring to the lonely mourner
Of the painless joys of Heaven.

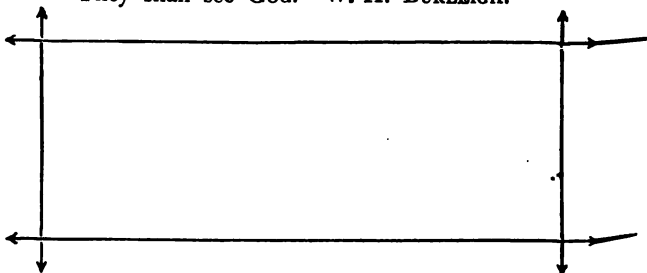


September 30.

"We shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."—I *St. John* iii. 3.

If we would truly see Him, we must seek to have the mirror of our heart cleansed, that it may receive His glorious Image. "The pure in heart" He hath promised "shall see Him." Of them who love Him, and keep His words, He saith "My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Love is the eye whereby the spirit sees God. Disputing about holy things but blinds us. If we love, and as we love, we shall see and shall receive. While the world jangles our Lord comes secretly to us, if we with pure hearts draw nigh to Him.—DR. PUSEY.

They who have kept their spirit's virgin whiteness
Undimmed by folly, and unstained by sin,
And made their foreheads radiant with the brightness
Of the pure truth whose temple is within,
They shall see God.—W. H. BURLEIGH.



October 1.

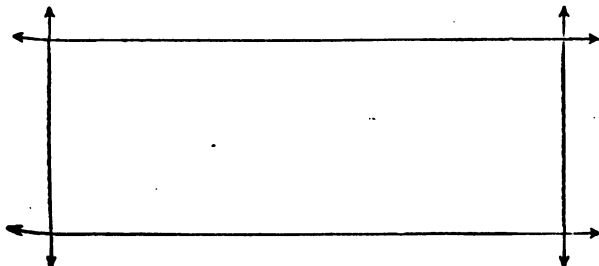
“Knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.”—*Heb. x. 34.*

How sweet and glorious, amid the fall and decay of the loveliness and beauty around us, to be able to rest our hearts quietly upon a land beyond earth's horizon ; and to look forward brightly and happily across these changes to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that *fadeth not away.*

REV. J. R. VERNON.

There nothing can be feeble,
There none can ever mourn,
There nothing is divided,
There nothing can be torn ;
'Tis fury, ill, and scandal,
'Tis peaceless peace below ;
Peace, endless, strifeless, ageless,
The halls of Sion know.

J. M. NEALE *from Bernard of Cluny.*



October 2.

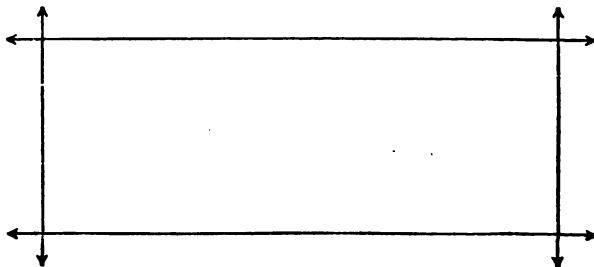
“I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”—*St. John* xii. 32.

Love drew God down from Heaven to the manger, to the Cross, to the Sacrament of love; but it not only draws God down to man, it also draws man up to God. There is in man a cord—it may be beyond the reach of the creature—a cord most delicate and sensitive, and yet withal so powerful, that if it can be touched, it will change the whole inner being: it is the cord of love.

REV. W. H. HUTCHINGS.

O holy Lord! uplifted high,
With outstretched arms in mortal woe,
Embracing in Thy wondrous love
The sinful world that lies below.
Give us an ever living faith
To gaze beyond the things we see,
And, in the mystery of Thy Death,
Draw us and all men unto Thee.

BISHOP WALSHAM HOW.



October 3.

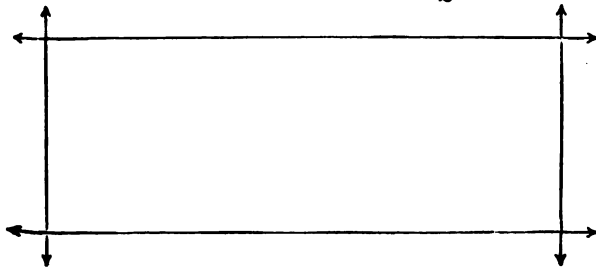
“ Their prayer came up to his holy dwelling-place,
even unto heaven.”—2 *Chron.* xxx. 27.

There is nothing that cuts the air so swiftly,
nothing that takes so sublime, so happy, so
auspicious a flight as prayer, and leaves far
behind all the dangers, and even the delights,
of this low world of ours.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Dart up thy soul in groans ; thy secret groan
Shall pierce His ear, shall pierce His ear alone :
Dart up thy soul in vows : thy sacred vow
Shall find Him out, when Heaven alone shall know :
Dart up thy soul in sighs : thy whispering sigh
Shall rouse His ears, and fear no listener nigh :
Shoot up the bosom shafts of thy desire ;
Feathered with faith, and double forked with fire ;
And they will hit, fear not, where Heaven bids come ;
Heaven's never deaf. but when man's heart is dumb.

QUARLES.

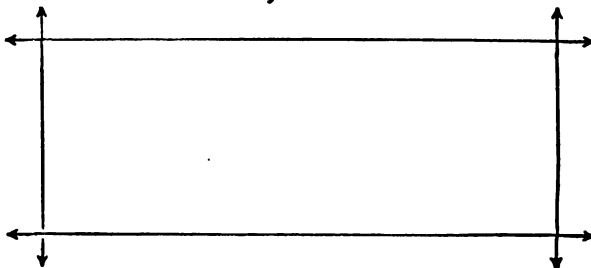


October 4.

"I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God."—I *Chron.* xxix. 2.

Do it with all thy might, for it is the business which thy Father hath given thee to do. Whatever God does, He does perfectly. Strive to do your work in such a manner. Let the thing not only be done, but be done gracefully and ornamentally as far as may be. It is a great and precious thought that God may be pleased by services done with the whole soul, and with strict punctuality and conscientiousness.—DEAN GOULBURN.

Work, and with cheerful, earnest hearts,
Your bravest and your best ;
For in a busy world like ours
There is no place of rest ;
And think not they who vainly dream
Their lives away are blest.



October 5.

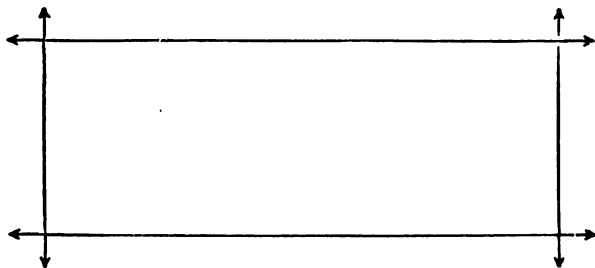
“Thou hast put gladness in my heart.”—
Psalm iv. 7.

Jesus wishes our religion to be the happiness of our lives; a happy religion means a religion of love.—F. W. FABER.

They err who say life is not sweet,
Though cares are long, and pleasures fleet;
Though smiles and tears, and sun and storm,
Still change life's ever-varying form.

The mind that looks on things aright,
Sees through the clouds the deep blue light;
And from the bank all mire and wet,
Plucks the fresh scented violet.

Each change is beauteous in its time;
And this is not our native clime;
But sweet enough for those who roam,
And take the path that leads them home.



October 6.

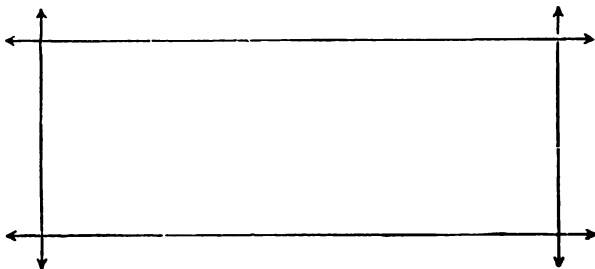
“I have spoken, I will also bring it to pass:
I have purposed, I will also do it.”—*Isaiah* xlv. 11.

Shall we not be satisfied to do calmly and for eternity that which we find prepared for us, knowing that all so done must work its proper work, unflattered by success and undisturbed by failure, because our sufficiency is of God.—DR. WESTCOTT.

Yet to the faithful, there is no such thing as disappointment.

Failures only bring a gentle pang, as peacefully they say

His purpose stands, though mine has passed away.—C. M. NOEL.



October 7.

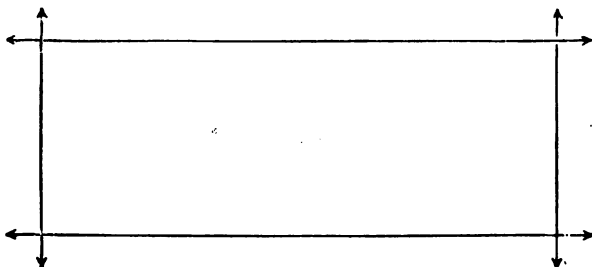
"Our rejoicing is this,—that in simplicity and godly sincerity . . . we have had our conversation in the world."—2 Cor. i. 12.

Whatever else you are, or are not, only be real. Be what you appear, and appear what you are. Neither simulating nor dissimulating a feeling. Be real, be true.

DEAN VAUGHAN.

Lord, make me in Thy sight sincere,
From heartless prayer my soul protect;
And when the eyes of men are near,
Make me more humbly circumspect,
Seeming as one who lives with Thee,
And being what he seems to be.

J. S. B. MONSELL.



October 8.

"Thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit."—*Isaiah* lvii. 15.

There cannot be too much humility of spirit in prayer; the more humble, the fitter to come to God; and He the more willing to come into the soul, and dwell in it; for that is the other house that he hath chosen. They seem very ill suited together: if the highest heavens be the Lord's one dwelling, it would seem fit that the other should be the richest palaces on earth, or stately-built temples. No, the other is such a one as we most despise, but God prefers before other, even the most sumptuous building.

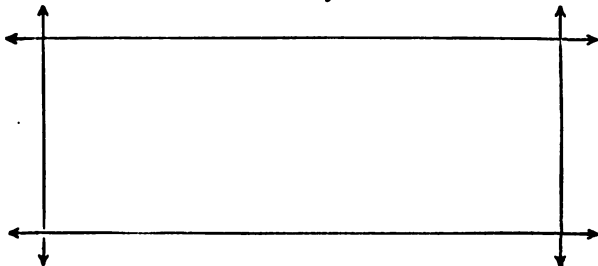
ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Thy home is with the humble, Lord!

The simple are Thy rest;

Thy lodging is in child-like hearts;

Thou makest there Thy nest.—F. W. FABER.



October 9.

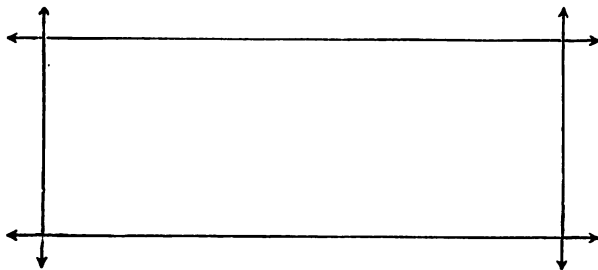
“I will go forth in the strength of the Lord God.”
—*Psalm lxxi.* 14 (P. B.)

Amid the tears of repentance for that which cannot be undone, there must ever be, in reliance on our Father, the true, unconquerable purpose to begin the struggle anew. Though we must look humbly backward in order to look confidently forward, we must also look upward, lest, looking only inward upon ourselves, we lose sight of the enduring mercy of our God.

CANON JELF.

Look not mournfully into the past,
It comes not back again ;
Wisely improve the present, it is thine ;
Go forth to meet the shadowy future
Without fear, and with a trusting heart.

H. W. LONGFELLOW.

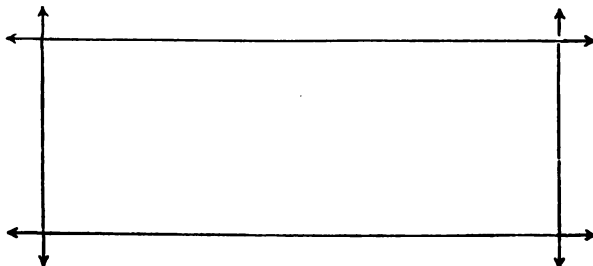


October 10.

“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God.”—2 *St. Peter* iii. 12.

He who waits for his master will always endeavour to be in that state in which he desires to be found.—BISHOP WILSON.

So I am watching quietly
Every day,
Whenever the sun shines brightly
I rise and say—
“Surely it is the shining of His Face,”
And look unto the gates of His high place
Beyond the sea,
For I know He is coming shortly
To summon me.
And when a shadow falls across the window
Of my room,
Where I am working my appointed task,
I lift my head to watch the door and ask
If He is come;
And the Angel answers sweetly
In my home,—
“Only a few more shadows,
And He will come.”—B. M.



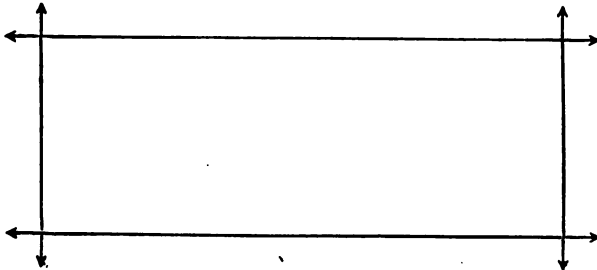
October 11.

“He looked for a city which hath foundations,
whose builder and maker is God.”—*Heb. xi. 10.*

Two several lovers built two several cities;
the love of God buildeth a Jerusalem; the
love of the world buildeth a Babylon; let
every one ask himself what he loveth, and
he shall resolve himself of which he is a
citizen.—ST. AUGUSTINE.

Wherefore, O wise Master Builder,
Death's Destroyer, strong to save,
Raise our hearts from this poor building
To the Church beyond the grave;
To the bright abiding city
Where the Father ever-blest,
Gives His children joys which fade not
In the everlasting Rest.

REV. R. F. LITLEDALE.



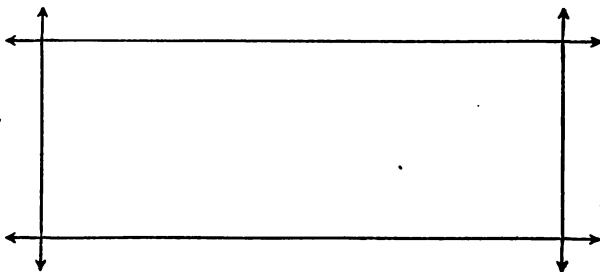
October 12.

“He satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.”—*Psalm cvii. 9.*

All human appliances for the satisfying of the craving of the body or the soul have in them this defect; that they do not satisfy for ever. But the water that Christ gives slakes the spirit's thirst, and slakes it for ever.—ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.

He, that His saints in this world rules and
shields,
To all believers life eternal yields.
With heavenly bread makes them that hunger
whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

REV. J. M. NEALE,
from the Latin.



October 13.

“Unto Thee lift I up mine eyes, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens.”—*Psalm cxxiii. 1.*

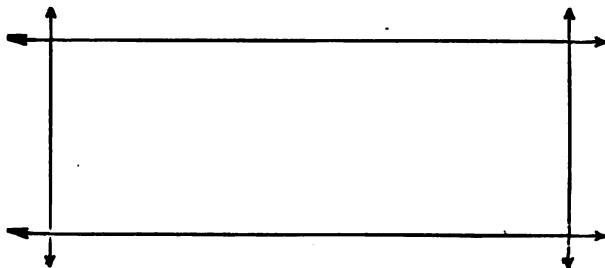
Nothing does so establish the mind amidst the rollings and turbulence of present things, as both a look above them and a look beyond them: above them to the steady and good Hand by which they are ruled; and beyond them, to the sweet and beautiful end, to which by that Hand they will be brought.

BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR.

And, guided by His perfect care,
Find all dark places everywhere
Wind upward, a celestial stair,
To love's own heights divinely fair.

He must for ever bless; and aye
At the clear break of Heaven's sweet day,
Wipe all earth's bitter tears away
And give us more than heart can pray.

HARRIET KIMBALL.



T

October 14.

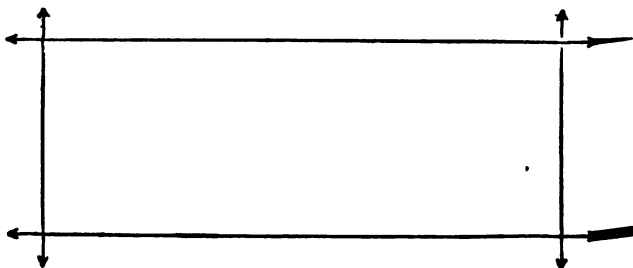
“Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say,
Rejoice.”—*Phil.* iv. 4.

They know little of their own wants and
emptiness who are not much in prayer ; and
they know little of the greatness and goodness
of God who are not much in praises.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Some murmur when their sky is clear
And wholly bright to view,
If one small speck of dark appear
In their great heaven of blue.
And some, with thankful love are filled
If but one streak of light,
One ray of God's good mercy, gild
The darkness of their night.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.



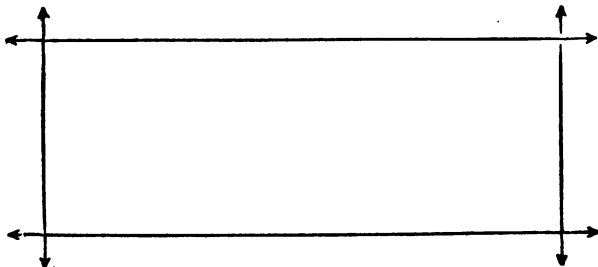
October 15.

—
“An offering of a free heart will I give thee.”—
Psalm liv. 6 (P. B.) —

If we should gather all the flowers that grow upon the mountain sides and in the valleys, and heap them up before God, He would not be richer than He is now; but when we bring ourselves to Him, and affection after affection opens and exhales in His presence, He is richer and His joys are greater.

O let my life be given,
My years for Thee be spent;
World fetters all be riven
And joy with suffering blent;
Thou gav'st Thyself for me,
I give myself to Thee.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



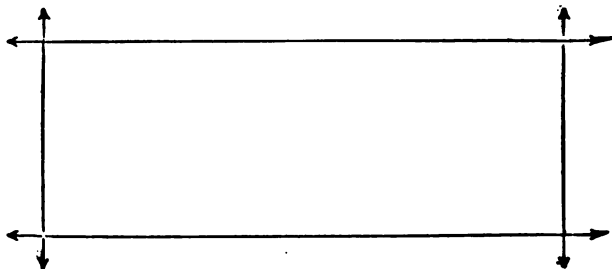
October 16.

"Learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart."—*St. Matt.* xi. 29.

Be it yours to study holiness, with Jesus for your Teacher, and be not slack in asking Him for light and grace, that you may learn His lesson perfectly.—JEAN NICOLAS GROU.

Henceforth I learn that to obey is best,
And love with fear the only God ; to walk
As in His Presence ; ever to observe
His Providence : and on Him sole depend,
Merciful over all His works, with good
Still overcoming evil, and by small
Accomplishing great things, by things deemed weak
Subverting worldly strong, and worldly wise
By simply meek ; that suffering for truth's sake
Is fortitude to highest victory ;
And to the faithful, death the gate of Life.
Taught this by His example, whom I now
Acknowledge my Redeemer ever bless'd.

MILTON.



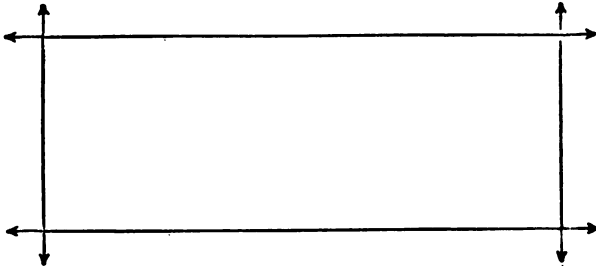
October 17.

“ Hold up my goings in thy paths that my foot-steps slip not.”—*Psalm xvii. 5.*

May my path to Thee, I pray, be safe, straightforward, and perfect to the end, failing not either amid prosperity or adversity, that I may not be elated in the one, nor depressed in the other.—ST. THOMAS AQUINAS.

Oh may we follow undismay'd
Where'er our God shall call!
And may His Spirit's present aid
Uphold us lest we fall,
Till in the day of days we stand
As victors in a Deathless Land.

DR. NEWMAN.



October 18.

(St. Luke the Evangelist.)

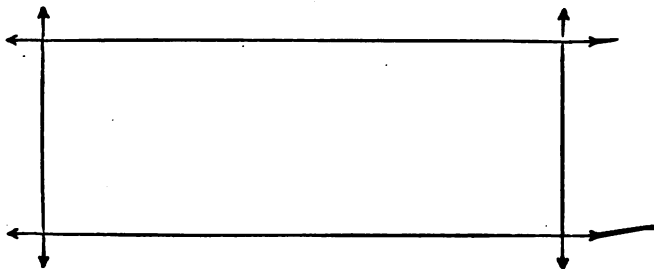
“Luke, the beloved physician.”—*Col.* iv. 14.

For both the half-educated fisherman and the learned physician there was a niche in the Church of Christ. All ranks, intellects, and occupations were pressed into Christ's service, and fitted for it. There was room for all. God has got His own use for every one of us, great or little, learned or simple. We can, we *must*, all do something for God in the world before our sun sets behind the everlasting hills; and not something only, but just that very thing which God wants done.

REV. E. C. CONEY.

So grant us, Lord, like him to live,
Beloved by man, approved by Thee,
Till Thou at last the summons give,
And we, with him, Thy face shall see.

BISHOP W. D. MACLAGAN.



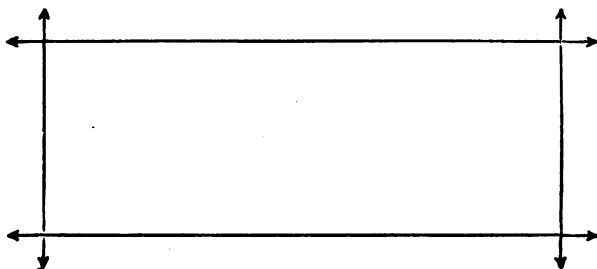
October 19.

"They constrained Him, saying, abide with us."
St. Luke xxiv. 29.

When Jesus is present, all is well, and nothing seems difficult; but when Jesus is not present, everything is hard. Be thou humble and peaceable, and Jesus will be with thee. Be devout and quiet, and Jesus will stay with thee.—THOMAS A KEMPIS.

Abide with me from morn till eve,
For without Thee I cannot live;
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without Thee I dare not die.

JOHN KEBLE.



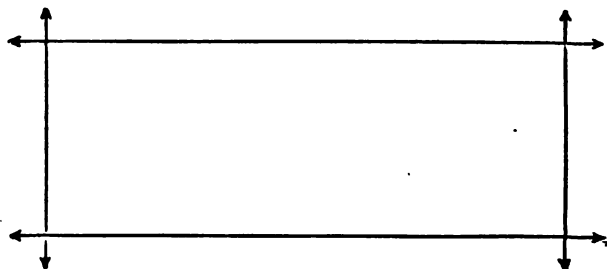
October 20.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace.”—*Heb. iv. 16.*

Never believe that distance of place can possibly separate souls that God has united by the links of His grace. The children of God, having their heart where their treasure is, and having all the *same* treasure, even God, are consequently always united and joined together. This must comfort our hearts when we are necessarily separated from those we love. We may often meet at the foot of the Cross, and our spirits may hold converse together before the Throne of Mercy, when bodily we are far apart.—ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.

There is a scene where spirits blend,
Where friend holds fellowship with friend ;
Though sundered far, by faith we meet
Around one common mercy seat.

REV. HUGH STOWELL.



October 21.

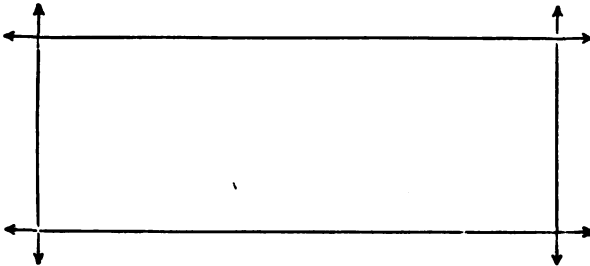
“Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.”—*St. John* vi. 68.

Keep close to Jesus both in life and in death, and commit thyself unto His faithfulness, who, when all fail, can alone help thee.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go?
Thou hast the words of endless life;
Thou givest victory in the strife;
Thou only art the changeless friend
On whom for aye we may depend;
In life, in death alike we flee,
O Saviour of the world, to Thee.

F. R. HAVERGAL.



October 22.

“ My son, give me thine heart.”—*Prov. xxiii. 26.*

Take my heart, for I cannot give it to Thee ;
keep it, for I cannot keep it for Thee.

ST. AUGUSTINE.

Here is my heart ! My God, I give it Thee ;

I heard Thee call and say,

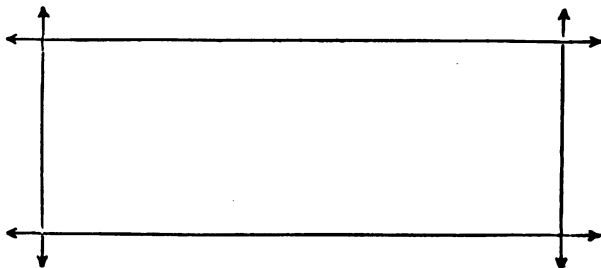
Not to the world, my child, but unto Me ;

I heard and will obey.

Here is love's offering to my King,

Which in glad sacrifice I bring,

Here is my heart.—*From the German.*

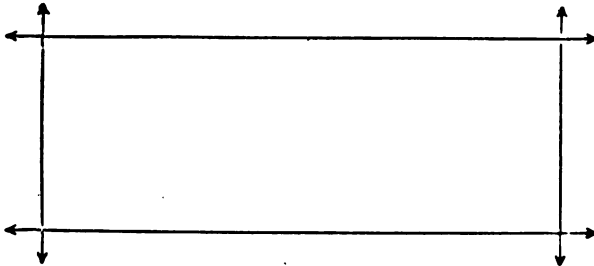


October 23.

“Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.”—1 *St. Peter* ii. 21.

It was His intention and desire that we should imitate Him. We were not only to admire, but to follow. This must be our daily endeavour. Though His life be most holy, and ours as yet most sinful, we must try to keep Him in sight, and to pursue that narrow way which He has trodden before us and for us.—CANON JELF.

In the way thy Saviour trod,
Onward yet,
Gladly bearing every load,
Meekly bending to the rod,
Walking humbly with thy God,
Onward yet.—M. B.



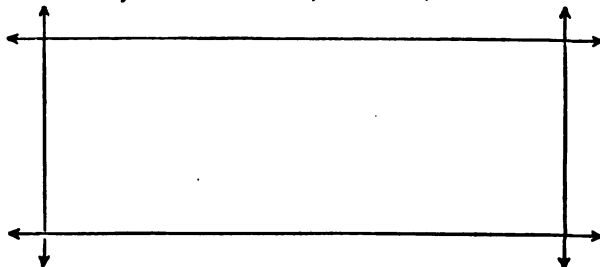
October 24.

“Use this world, as not abusing it; for the fashion of this world passeth away.”—1 *Cor.* vii. 31.

It is a distinct duty to use life while we are here. But then it is a duty equally distinct to live above the world. Unworldliness is the spirit of holding all things as not our own, in the perpetual conviction that they will not last. It is not to put life and God's lovely world aside with self-torturing hand. It is to have the world, and not to let the world have you; to be its master and not its slave. To have Christ hidden in the heart, Christ calming all, and making all else seem by comparison poor and small.

REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Life's mystery—deep, restless as the ocean—
Hath surged and wailed for ages to and fro;
Earth's generations watch its ceaseless motion
As in and out its hollow moanings flow;
Shivering and yearning by that unknown sea,
Let my soul calm itself, O Christ, in Thee!



October 25.

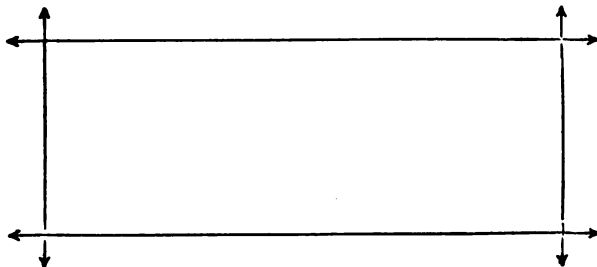
“The Lord looketh on the heart.”—I *Samuel*
xvi. 7.

Our truest victory is ever to be found where there is the truest humiliation, and that assuredly is to be exercised more in little things than in greater ones. The world sees nothing of those hidden victories over self, those angry words restrained, those passions and emotions subjected to grace, that firm will kept over natural tastes and inclinations. God only witnesses your struggles with self, and thus natural vanity, which always yearns for the praise of men, is defeated and crushed.

GUILLORÉ.

Men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves to higher things.

TENNYSON.

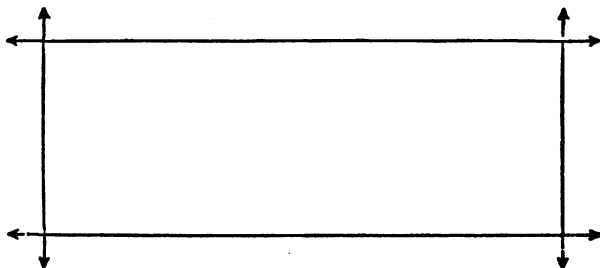


October 26.

“ Their works do follow them.”—*Rev. xiv. 13.*

Once fill the mind with the conviction that goodness is, and must ever be, and will ever be, victorious; once impress upon it, the conviction that no unselfish act, no courageous deed, no kind word, no humble thoughts can ever pass away, without leaving a seed of good behind, and we shall labour hopefully, untiringly, in the full certainty of the future resurrection of our work, its undying influence even for Eternity.

Not myself, but the truth I have spoken,
Not myself, but the seed that in life I have
sown,
Shall pass on to ages : all about me forgotten
Save the truth I have spoken, the things I
have done.—H. BONAR.



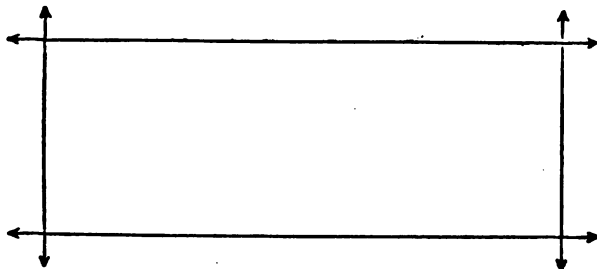
October 27.

“All that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine.
Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and
praise Thy glorious name.”—*I Chron. xxix. 11, 13.*

The true Christian rejoices in those earthly things that give joy, but in such a way as not to care for them when they go. For no blessings does he care much except those that are immortal; but the least and most fleeting he is too religious to contemn, considering them God's gift; and the least and most fleeting thus received, yield a purer and deeper, though a less tumultuous joy.—*DR. NEWMAN.*

The land with peace and fruitfulness
Enrich; air, earth and water bless.
Nourish us with the bread of life,
Bought by Christ's grand and deadly strife,
With humble, grateful heart may we
Accept whatever flows from Thee.

From the Danish.



October 28.

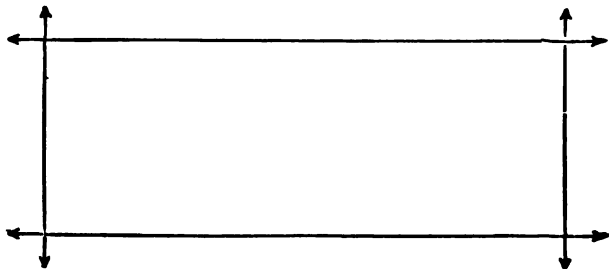
(St. Simon and St. Jude, Apostles.)

“Followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”—*Heb.* vi. 12.

Let us suffer with those that suffer, and be crucified with those that be crucified, that we may also be glorified with those that be glorified.—MACARIUS.

Bravely we must go onward
Where the steps of the saints have been;
Through the night wind and the desert,
From island to island of green,
Where the great ones have gone before us,
Where the pilgrim-bands have been.

H. A. RAWES.



October 29.

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things;
and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”—
Rev. xxi. 7.

Believe me, God loves those who are buffeted by the waves and storms of the world, provided they receive them from His hand as trials, and, like valiant warriors, fight to maintain their faithfulness in the midst of struggles and assaults.—ST. FRANCIS DE SALES.

Christ, Thy soldier's palm of honour,
Unto this city free

Lead me, when my warfare's girdle

I cast away from me,

A partaker in Thy bounty

With Thy blessed ones to be.

Grant me vigour, while I labour

In the ceaseless battle pressed,

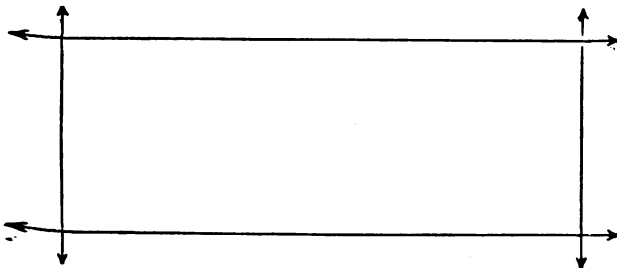
That Thou may'st, the conflict over,

Grant me everlasting rest;

And I may at length inherit

Thee my portion ever blest.

ST. BERNARD.

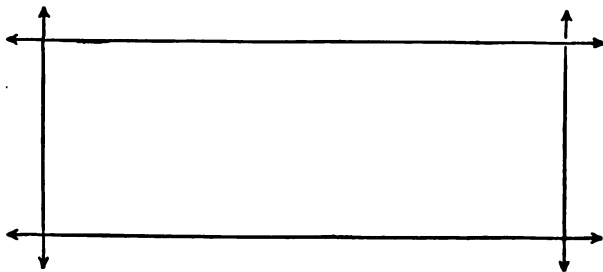


October 30.

“I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.”—*Rev. xxi. 6.*

Lord, I thirst, Thou art the spring of life, satisfy me : I thirst, Lord, I thirst after Thee the Living God.—*ST. AUGUSTINE.*

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one,
Stoop down, and drink, and live :”
I came to Jesus and I drank
Of that life-giving stream ;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in Him.—*H. BONAR.*



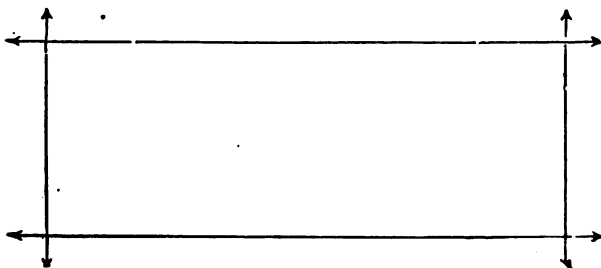
October 31.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."—*Phil.* iv. 13.

Whoever has cultivated the habit of looking to God, and praising Him, will have found growing up within himself the vital consciousness of a present Saviour by Whose strength and for Whom he is working. He will have ceased to trouble himself as to what God gives him to do, for he feels that the work of God is one, and that all faithful labour contributes to its fulfilment.—DR. WESTCOTT.

On! with thy heart in Heaven,
Thy strength—thy master's might,
Till the wild waste places blossom
In the warmth of a Saviour's light.

ANNA SHIPTON.



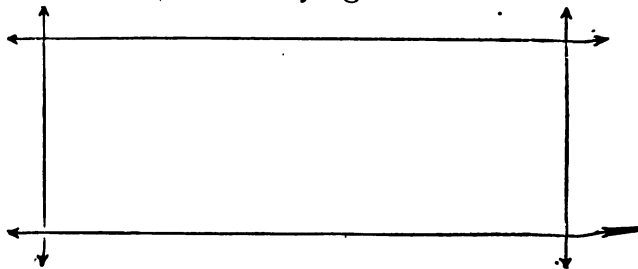
November 1.

(All Saints' Day.)

“Seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, . . . let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”—*Heb. xii. 1.*

All, of every age and tongue and people and nation, who have been perfected, call us by their faithful lives and peaceful deaths, beckon us, as it were, from Paradise, and tell us, “We know Whom we have believed; Whom we sought, we have found; Whom we chose we have; one thing we asked of the Lord, to behold the fair beauty of the Lord, and to visit His Temple. And now we dwell in His courts, and behold His Face, and are filled with His love, Whom not seeing, we believed and loved.”—DR. PUSEY.

Where loyal hearts and true
Stand ever in the light,
All rapture through and through,
In God's most holy sight.—F. W. FABER.



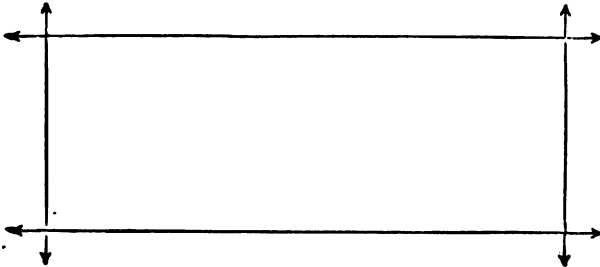
November 2.

“My soul is even as a weaned child.”—*Psalm*
cxxxix. 2.

Simplicity is an uprightness of soul which prevents self-consciousness. That soul which looks where it is going, without losing time arguing over every step, or looking back perpetually, possesses true simplicity. Real Christian simplicity is generous and upright, and forgets itself in unreserved resignation to God.—ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

Quiet, Lord, my froward heart,
Make me teachable and mild,
Upright, simple, free from art,
Make me as a weanèd child,
From distrust and envy free,
Pleased with all that pleases Thee.

J. NEWTON.



November 3.

“There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.”—*Prov.* xviii. 24.

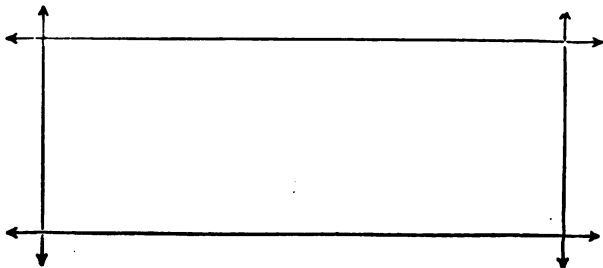
That passionate need of worship—hero-worship as it has been called—is a primal, universal instinct of the heart. Christ is the answer to it. Men will not do; we try to find men to reverence thoroughly, and we cannot do it. We go through life, finding guides, rejecting them one after another, expecting nobleness, and finding meanness; and we turn away with a recoil of disappointment. There is no disappointment in Christ. There is but one man whom we can adore without idolatry; the Man Jesus Christ.—REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

O Christ our King! the King and Son of Mary,

Our Champion, Saviour, Brother, Priest and Friend!
Teach Thou each yearning throb of hero worship

How to pass on to Thee, as its true end:
Let every gleam of light that charms our eyes
Lead us to Thee, from Whom it took its rise.

C. M. NOEL.



November 4.

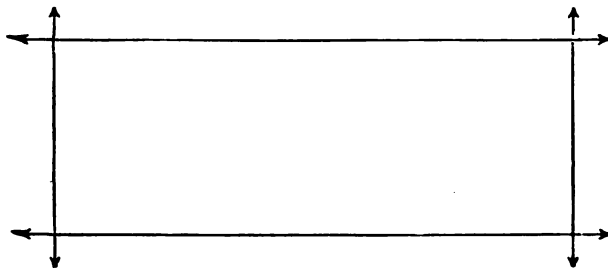
“Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks,
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.”—*Psalm*
xlii. 1 (P. B.)

Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our
heart is restless till it resteth in Thee.

ST. AUGUSTINE.

Make me Thine own,
And take me;—of myself I am afraid,
Oh, take me from myself; oh, take away
Whate'er of self is in me; and I pray
Give me on what my spirit may be stayed,
And that, I know full well, is but
Thyself alone.

ISAAC WILLIAMS.



November 5.

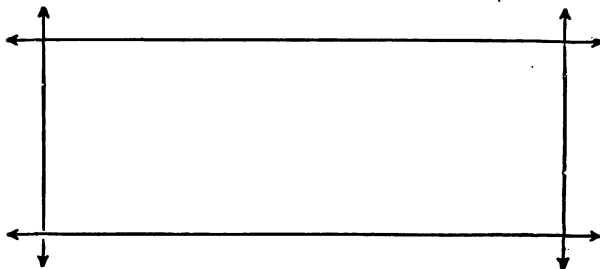
“What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”—*Micah* vi. 8.

Better to stay humbly on earth, among the duties and affections of humanity, contented to walk till wings are given us wherewith to fly. And even though on earth, the Heaven will be above us in our labours, the Heaven of eternal truth and beauty, to which we may look up, and take comfort, and draw light and guidance, and learn to walk in the light.

REV. C. KINGSLEY.

I would arise in all Thy strength,
My place on earth to fill,
To work out all my time of war
With love's unflinching will :
Firm against every doubt of Thee,
For all my future way—
To walk in Heaven's eternal light,
Throughout the changing day.

A. L. WARING.



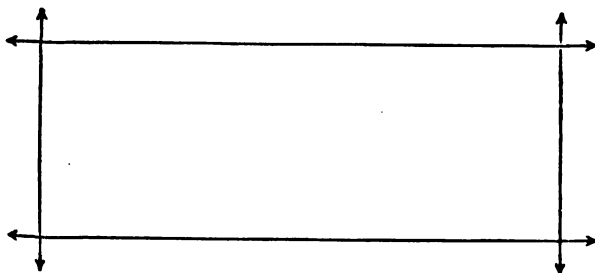
November 6.

“Rejoicing in hope.”—*Rom.* xii. 12.

If we really believed the promises of God made us in the gospel, and dwelt upon them by a lively hope, till the future assumed a distinctness to our mental vision and brightened into a glorious reality, what joy could equal the Christian's joy.—BISHOP JACKSON.

If our love were but more simple,
We should take Him at His word,
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord.

F. W. FABER.



November 7.

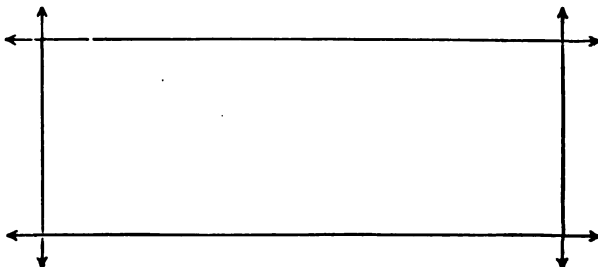
“Thou hast been faithful over a few things.”—
St. Matt. xxv. 21.

Fidelity in trifles, and an earnest seeking to please God in little matters is a test of true devotion and love. Let your aim be to please our dear Lord perfectly in little things, and to attain a spirit of child-like simplicity and dependence.—JEAN N. GROU.

Whate'er I do, things great or small,
Whate'er I speak or frame,
Thy glory may I seek in all,
Do all in Jesu's name.

My Father, for His sake, I pray
Thy child accept and bless;
And lead me by Thy grace to-day
In paths of righteousness.

REV. SIR H. W. BAKER.



November 8.

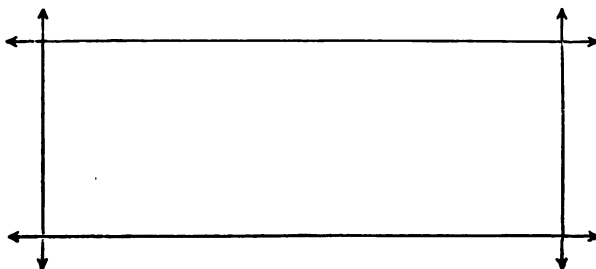
"Let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay, lest ye fall into condemnation."—*St. James* v. 12.

Perhaps the highest attainment in Heaven, certainly the highest attainment in religion, is reality. May I not humbly say, that the great power and beauty of our dear Lord when He was on this earth was that He was always so real in everything. And the one thing He ever reproved bitterly was unreality.

DEAN VAUGHAN.

Be what thou seemest, live thy creed,
Hold up to earth the torch divine ;
Be what thou prayest to be made,
Let the great Master's steps be thine.

H. BONAR.



November 9.

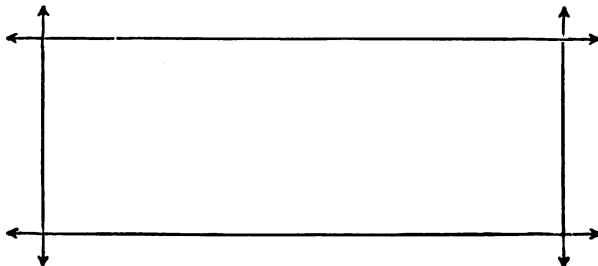
“Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.”—*Psalms* xcvi. 11.

Lightness and brightness of heart, and an unfailling elasticity of spirit, must characterise the good soldier of Jesus Christ, if he is to break his way into the heavenly country through the serried ranks of his spiritual foes.

DEAN GOULBURN.

How happily the working days
In this dear service fly,
How rapidly the closing hour,
The time of rest draws nigh,
When all the faithful gather home,
A joyful company,
And ever where the Master is
Shall His blest servants be.

F. J. SPITTA.



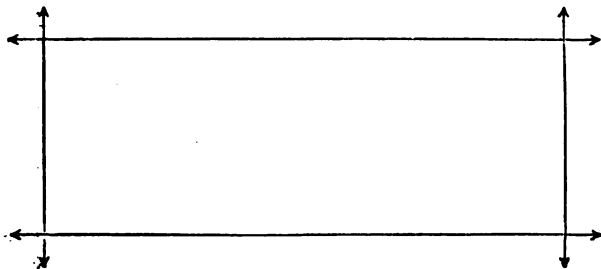
November 10.

"I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them."—*Isaiah* xlii. 16.

There are two ways of looking at every occurrence—a bright and a dark side: never begin to look darkly at a subject without checking yourself, and saying "Is there not a bright side to this"? Has not God promised the bright side to me? Make this your habit. Every gift of God is good, and given for our happiness; and we sin if we abuse it.—REV. C. KINGSLEY.

How many blessed gifts of truest gladness
His own dear Hand has scattered on our way,
How oft His voice of love amid our sadness
Turned darkness into day.

REV. R. H. BAYNES.



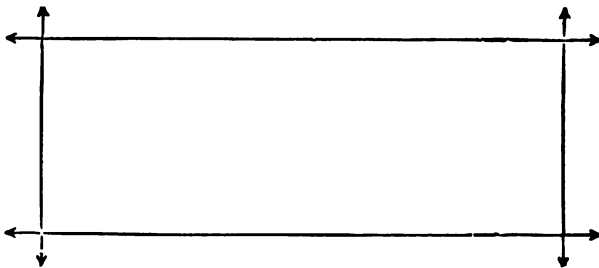
November 11.

“Ye serve the Lord Christ.”—*Col. iii. 24.*

Will you try more now, more than before, that the words may be true of each one of you? That you will more earnestly use the help you have, more resolutely set a watch over all your ways, more carefully improve every means of grace? advancing all the while from strength to strength, growing all the while in His grace and knowledge.

REV. J. M. NEALE.

Well worth the daily cross,
Well worth the earnest toil;
Well worth reproach and loss,
The fight on stranger soil;
Let us lift our hands and pray,
And take our journey on;
Work, while 'tis called to-day
With the thought of that “Well done.”



November 12.

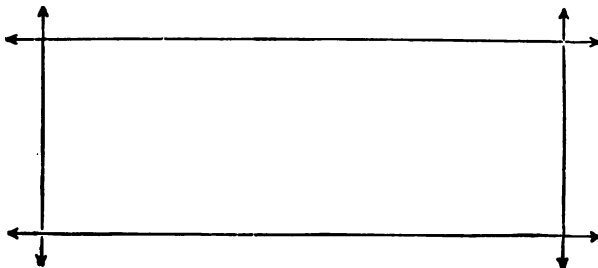
“The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness.”—*Gal. v. 22.*

Let us seek the grace of a cheerful heart, an even temper, sweetness, gentleness, and brightness of mind, as walking in His Light and by His grace. Let us pray Him to give us the spirit of ever-springing love which sweeps away the vexations of life, and above all things unites us to Him who is the fountain of all mercy, lovingkindness, and joy.

DR. NEWMAN.

Peace be thy gentle guest,
Peace holy and divine ;
God's blessed sunshine still
Upon thy pathway shine.
His spirit fill thy soul
And cast out every sin,
His own deep joy impart
And make a heaven within.

H. BONAR.



November 13.

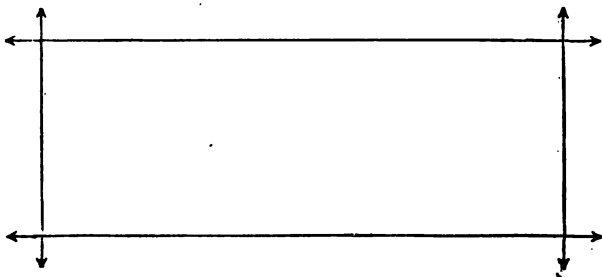
“I know that my Redeemer liveth.”—*Job* xix. 25.

Christian life is a life of communion, communion is from the nature of the case reciprocal, and can be realised in all its power only between two living ones, not with one who has already been ages dead. It is only through spiritual converse with a continually living and working Lord that strength and life can proceed into the soul of a Christian.

VAN OOSTERZEE.

O Jesus, make Thyself to me
A living, bright Reality ;
More present to faith's vision keen
Than any outward object seen ;
More dear, more intimately nigh,
Than e'en the sweetest earthly tie.

CHARLOTTE ELLIOTT.



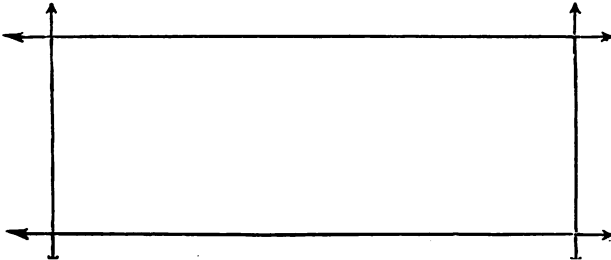
November 14.

“Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ:”—2 *Peter* iii. 18.

God is thy end and excellency, and thy happiness lies in moving forward till thou come to thy perfection. Be thou always rising until thou comest to rest in the bosom of thy Lord.—RENNIGER.

O let me see Thy foot-marks
And in them plant mine own,
My hope to follow duly
Is in Thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end,
And then in Heaven receive me,
My Saviour, and my Friend!

REV. J. E. BODE.



November 15.

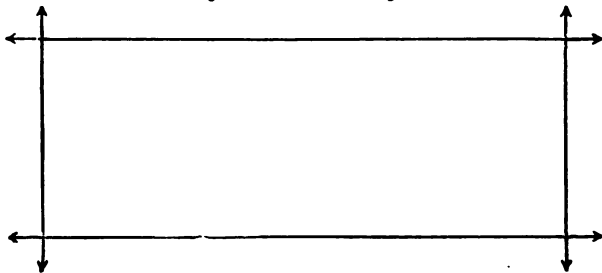
"I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia . . . and again they said Alleluia."—*Rev. xix. 1, 3.*

If you hear the songs of birds, or other sweet strains, lift up your mind to the songs of Paradise, where sound the endless Alleluias; and pray the Lord to make you meet to praise Him for ever, in union with those heavenly spirits.—LORENZO SCUPOLI.

The strain upraise of joy and praise,
Alleluia!

To the glory of their King
Shall the ransomed people sing Alleluia!
And the choirs that dwell on high
Swell the chorus in the sky, Alleluia!
Ye, through the fields of paradise that roam,
Ye blessed ones repeat through that bright
home Alleluia!

REV. J. M. NEALE, *from the Latin.*

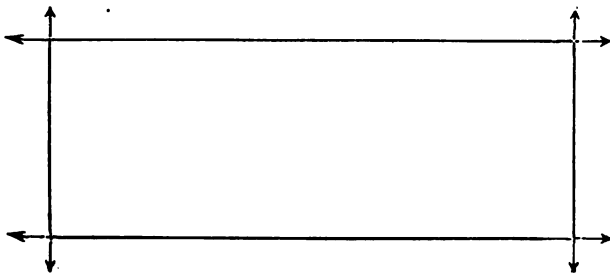


November 16.

“The upright shall dwell in Thy presence.”—
Psalm cxi. 13.

A life of religion is a life of faith, and faith is that strange faculty by which man feels the presence of the invisible. Move where he will there is a thought and presence which he cannot put aside: he is haunted for ever by the eternal mind. A living Redeemer stands beside him, goes with him, walks with him as a man with his friend. The emphatic description of a life of spirituality is “Enoch walked with God.”—REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Blest they who walk with God
By winged intercourse of faith;
And see Him, though invisible, nor feel
His Presence least when none beside is nigh,
Nor hear Him least when all are mute beside;
Never less lonely than when thus alone,
Alone with God!—EDWARD GRINFIELD.



November 17.

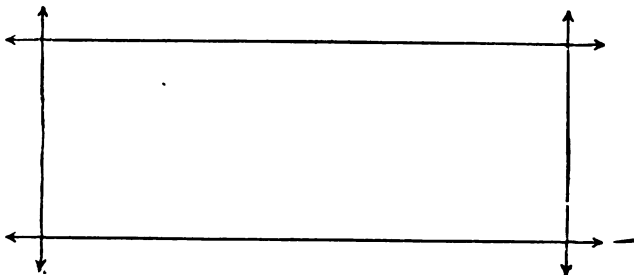
“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”—*Eccles.* ix. 10.

“Do a little, but do it as well as you possibly can,” is, in all matters earthly and heavenly the safest rule. A few prayers, if only a few, can be said readily, and these said with the whole outpoured strength of the soul; a few hours of work, if it may be done with the whole effort of the intelligence and the will;—these are the secrets of excellence alike in the things of earth and of Heaven.

CANON LIDDON.

One by one thy duties wait thee,
Let thy whole strength go to each ;
Let no future dreams elate thee,
Learn thou first what these can teach.

A. A. PROCTER.

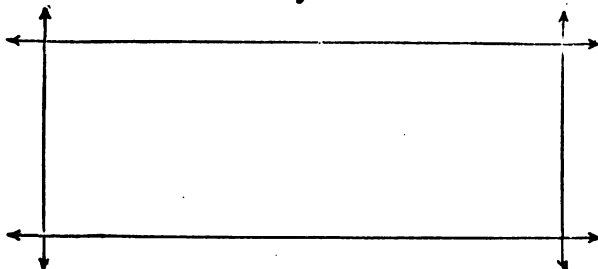


November 18.

“Who will render to every man according to his deeds. To them who by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory, and honour, and immortality, eternal life.”—*Rom. ii. 6. 7.*

The beatitude of the Saints is the matured result of the long course of patient strivings which may have passed wholly unobserved because of their minuteness. One step has followed another in the mysterious progress of daily, hourly acts, each seeming to pass away, as footprints on the sand are obliterated by the advancing tide; but the end is the Vision of God, and the recompense is the perfection of a nature made one with the mind of God.—REV. T. T. CARTER.

Peace—still voice and closed eye
Suit best with hearts beyond the sky,
Hearts training in their low abode
Daily to lose themselves, in hope to find
their God.—JOHN KEBLE.



November 19.

“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work.”—*St. John ix. 4.*

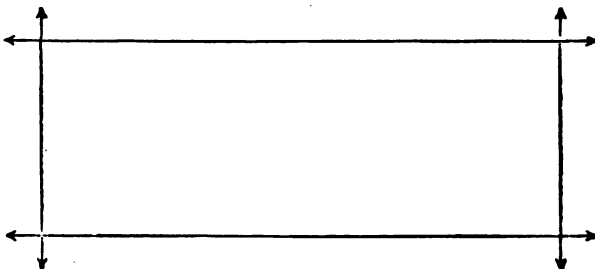
We must solemnly devote each day and all its actions to the glory of God.

BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

Each day is like an angel, which with wings,
Comes from, and goes to Heaven : but empty
never

Comes or returns, but some occasion brings;
Then hastens back to Heaven, its tale to bear
Of evil, or fresh good to harbour there.

ISAAC WILLIAMS.

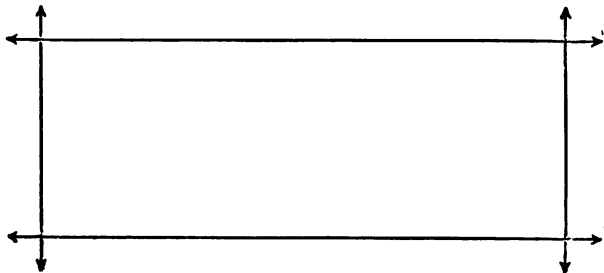


November 20.

“Jesus . . . went about doing good.”—*Acts* x. 38.

Are there any who try to be of some little help or comfort to the souls with whom they are brought in contact through life? O mingle sometimes with your earthly help, the blessed name of God; and if there remain one little spark of life in the soul, that name will re-kindle it, and carry comfort and resignation.—*From the French.*

I did not mean that thou should'st tread
The way of life alone,
But that the clear and shining light
That round thy footsteps shone
Should guide some other weary feet
To My bright Home of Rest;
And thus, in blessing those around,
Thou should'st thyself be blest.



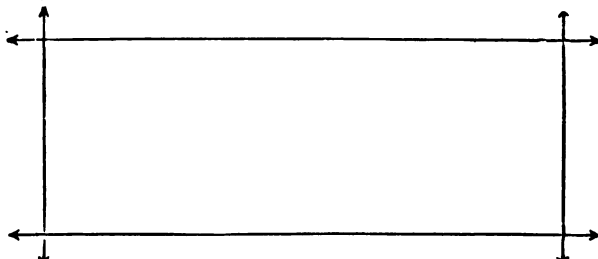
November 21.

“Let us consider one another, to provoke unto love, and to good works . . . exhorting one another, and so much the more as ye see the day approaching.”—*Heb. x. 24, 25.*

Methinks the universality of our death and resurrection should much endear us to each other. Those who have been in one common war, and have shared in one victory, love each other as fellow soldiers: and shall not we who have to pass through the deep valley of the shadow of death, and have all to hear the trumpet sound, and have all to be raised again from the grave—shall not we love one another fervently and with a pure heart? Shall we not help one another in attaining the resurrection unto life?—BICKERSTETH.

One the strain which lips of thousands
 Lift as from the heart of one;
 One the conflict, one the peril,
 One the march in God begun;
 One the gladness of rejoicing
 On the far eternal shore,
 Where the one Almighty Father
 Reigns in love for evermore.

REV. S. BARING-GOULD.



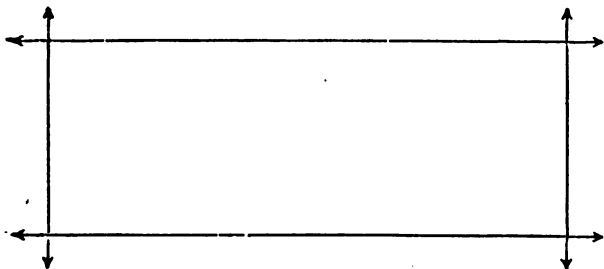
November 22.

“Hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?”—*Num.* xxiii. 19.

God can make good His promise when it seemeth to be broken, can find out means when all men's inventions fail. He doeth more than we can challenge when He seemeth to do less than He doth promise; and sometimes openly, sometimes secretly, but always most certainly, is as good as His word.

REV. A. FARINDON.

Dost thou ask when comes His hour?
Then, when it shall aid the best,
Trust His faithfulness and power,
Trust in Him, and quiet rest;
Suffer on, and hope, and wait,
Jesus never comes too late.—SPITTA.



November 23.

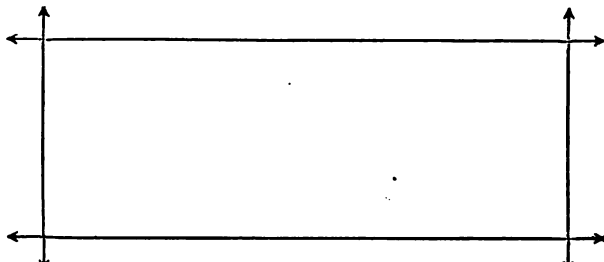
“He bringeth them unto their desired haven.”—
Psalm cvii. 30.

A friend once won need never be lost, if each will only be trusty and true. Then they will be like two ships which set sail at morning from the same port, and ere nightfall lose sight of each other, and go each on its own course and at its own pace for many days, through many storms and seas; and yet meet again, and find themselves lying side by side in the same haven, when their long voyage is past.

REV. C. KINGSLEY.

And we on divers shores now cast
Shall meet, our perilous voyage past,
All in our Father's home at last.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.



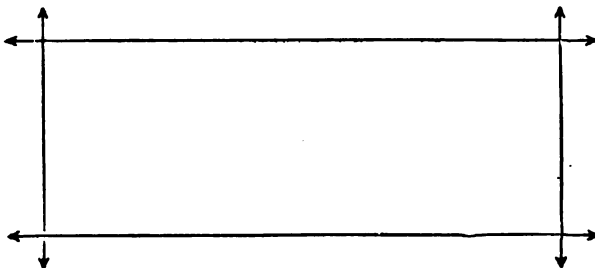
November 24.

“Wait patiently for him.”—*Psalm xxxvii.* 7.

Patience makes the soul to be of one mind
with God, and sweetens all the ills of life.

DR. PUSEY.

Yes, on Thee my God, I rest,
Letting life float calmly on,
For I know the last is best
When the crown of life is won.
In Thy might all things I bear,
In Thy love find bitters sweet,
And with all my grief and care
Sit in patience at Thy feet.—FRANCK.



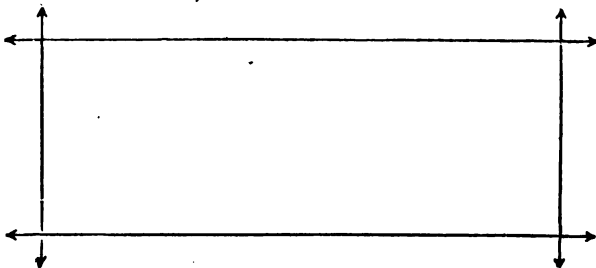
November 25.

"We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works."—*Ephes. ii. 10.*

There is a sacredness in individuality of character; each one born into this world is a fresh new soul intended by his Maker to develope himself in a new fresh way; we are what we are; we cannot be truly other than ourselves. We reach perfection not by copying, much less by aiming at originality, but by consistently and steadily working out the life which is common to us all, according to the character which God has given us.

REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

Our birth is but a sleep, and a forgetting;
The soul that rises with us, our life's star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar,
Not in entire forgetfulness,
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come
From God, who is our home.—WORDSWORTH.



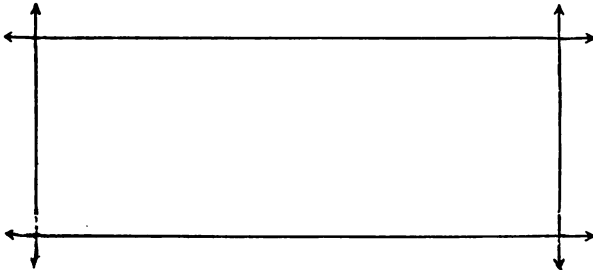
November 26.

—“Behold, my servant shall sing for joy of heart.”
—*Isaiah* lxxv. 14.

There is a joy which is not given to the ungodly, but to those who love Thee for Thine own sake, whose joy Thou Thyself art. This is the happy life, to rejoice in Thee, of Thee, for Thee, this it is and there is no other.—ST. AUGUSTINE.

A solemn, yet a joyful thing is life,
Which, being full of duties, is for this
Of gladness full, and full of lofty hopes.
. . . . The gladness we are called to know
Is an increasing gladness; the soil
Of the human heart, tilled rightly, will become
Richer and deeper, fitter to bear fruit
Of an immortal growth from day to day,
Fruit of love, life, and indeficient joy.

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH.

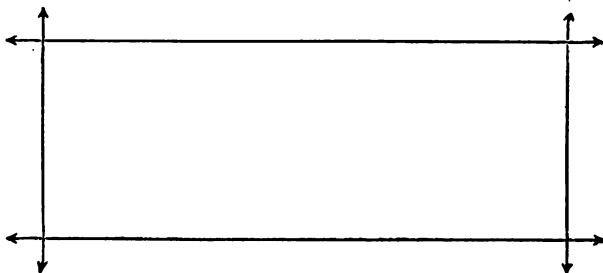


November 27.

“Lord what wilt thou have me to do?”—*Acts*
viii. 10.

Each man has his own work to do; this one to serve, that to sit at the Lord's feet; this one to follow, that one to wait. There is one sure rule for our guidance, whatever our special duty may be. If we are called to action, Christ is the Way; if we are called to thought, Christ is the Truth. To those His command is 'Follow me,' to these 'Tarry, till I come;' working or waiting our steps will be turned to Him and our souls will hang on Him.—DR. WESTCOTT.

Our spirits we surrender,
Our purposes resign,
To be conformed for ever
Unto the Will Divine.—C. M. NÖEL.



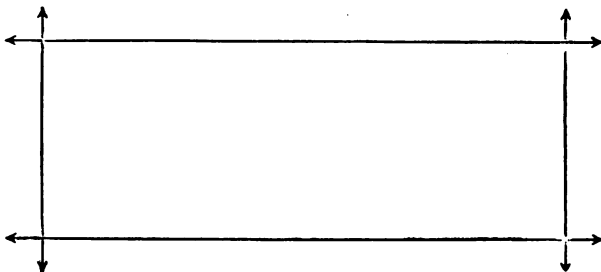
November 28.

“I will show thee what thou shalt do.”—1 *Sam.*
xvi. 3.

Ask Him to show you what your work should be; may be He will point out to you, in your present profession, the great openings which there are for serving Him in the labours of a Christian. If you are preparing to follow, He will very soon guide you, and lead you on.—CANON JELF.

The task Thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil:
In all my works Thy presence find
And prove Thy good and perfect will.
Thee may I set at my right hand
Whose eyes my inmost substance see,
And labour on at Thy command,
And offer all my works to Thee.

C. WESLEY.



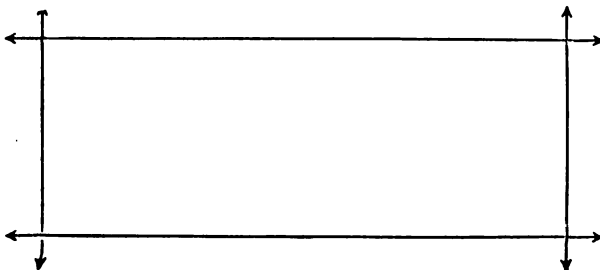
November 29.

“Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless.”—*2 Peter* iii. 14.

Year passes after year silently; Christ's coming is ever nearer than it was. O that as He comes nearer earth, we may approach nearer Heaven! Pray Him to give you the heart to seek Him in sincerity! Pray Him to make you in earnest. You have one work only, to bear your cross after Him. Resolve, in His strength, to do so.—DR. NEWMAN.

More of Thyself, oh, show me hour by hour,
More of Thy glory, O my God and Lord;
More of Thyself in all Thy grace and power,
More of Thy Love and Truth, incarnate Word.

H. BONAR.



November 30.

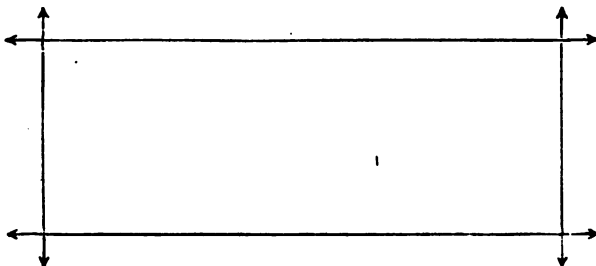
(St. Andrew's Day).

"He saith unto them, "Follow me."—*St. Matt.*
iv. 19.

God may not indeed now call us to such a high employment as that which fell to the lot of this holy Apostle ; but the same Lord who pointed out to him the task of being a "fisher of men" also points out to us our daily tasks and duties, however humble they may be. He "calls" us to them ; and it is by continuing in these duties, however trivial they may appear, that we shall be best obeying our Master's call.—DEAN HOOK.

Jesus calls us ; o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild restless sea,
Day by day His sweet voice soundeth,
Saying, "Christian, follow Me."

C. F. ALEXANDER.



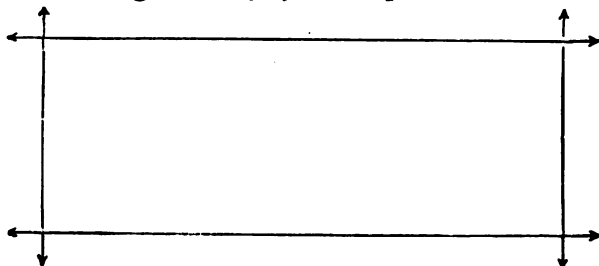
December 1.

“I am the Lord thy God. . . . which leadeth thee by the way thou shouldest go.”—*Isaiah* xlviii. 17.

If the way along which we are urged to move seem sometimes hard to our feet, let us evermore press on, recollecting that because it is the path of Jesus, leading to His earthly cross and His heavenly crown, therefore it is unspeakably better for us, with all its thorns and stones, than that broad way of selfish sloth and pleasure whereon we walked awhile towards the city of destruction.

CANON JELF.

Oh ! may I daily, hourly, strive
In heavenly grace to grow ;
To Thee and to Thy glory live,
Dead to all else below ;
Tread in the path my Saviour trod,
Though thorny, yet the path to God.



December 2.

“I cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers.”—*Ephes. i. 16.*

Pray for whom thou lovest ; thou wilt never have any comfort of his friendship for whom thou dost not pray.

Pray for my soul. More things are wrought by prayer

Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice

Rise like a fountain for me night and day.

For what are men better than sheep or goats

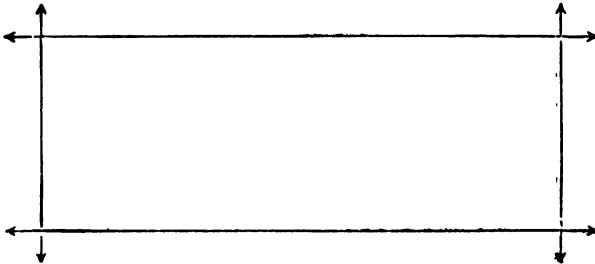
That nourish a blind life within the brain,

If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer

Both for themselves and those who call them friend ?

For so the whole round world is every way Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

TENNYSON.



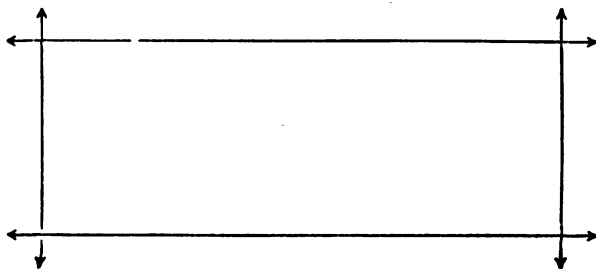
December 3.

“A joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful.”
Psalm cxlvii. 1 (P. B.)

It is a spirit of *thankfulness* in a man rather than any outward circumstances which gives him peace and joy; a spirit of thankfulness, which, if the richest man in the world is without, he is not at ease, and which, if the poorest man in the world possesses, he is never in trouble.—REV. J. BLUNT.

O Thou whose bounty fills my cup
With every blessing meet,
I give Thee thanks for every drop,
The bitter and the sweet ;
I bless Thee for the glad increase,
And for the waning joy:
And for this strange, this settled peace
Which nothing can destroy!

JANE CREWDSON.



December 4.

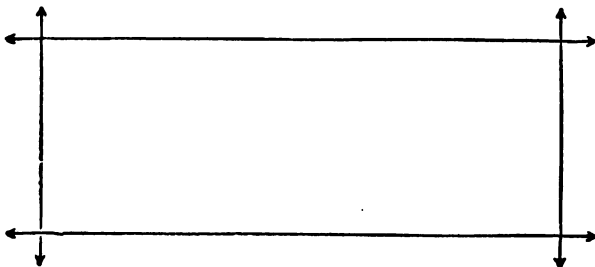
“Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.”—*Col. iii. 17.*

It is not the work which each man does—student, teacher, enquirer, man of business, artist—which makes the difference between man and man; it is not the work, but the *consecration* of the work.—DEAN CHURCH.

Think not that my graces slumber
While I toil throughout the day;
For all honest work is worship,
And to labour is to pray.

Think not that the heavenly blessing
From the workman's hand removes;
Who does best his task appointed,
Him the Master most approves.

W. BUTLER.



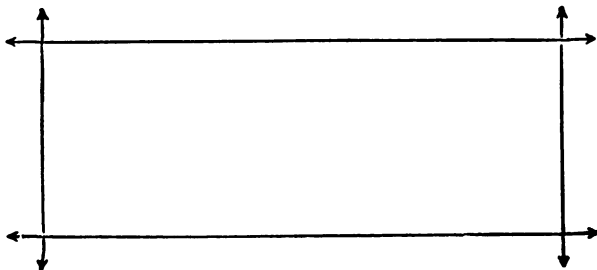
December 5.

“When thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light.”—*St. Luke xi. 34.*

A single intention implies a oneness of aim, and this sanctifies even the smallest actions: the most trifling thing done solely to please God, is more precious in His sight than all possible austerities and mighty deeds, prompted by vain-glory, or self-love; and that because He looks at the motive which prompts the deed, rather than at its result.

JEAN NICOLAS GROU.

I want a true regard,
A single, steady aim,
Unmoved by threat'ning or reward,
To Thee and Thy great name;
A jealous, just concern
For Thine immortal praise;
A pure desire that all may learn
And glorify Thy grace.—C. WESLEY.



December 6.

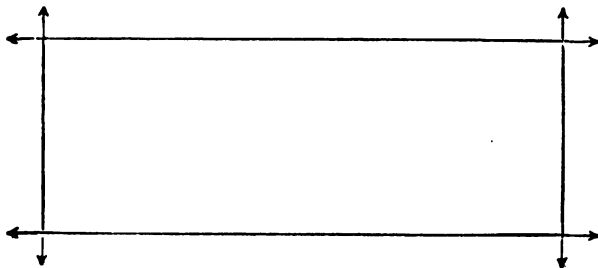
“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.”—1 *John* ii. 15.

Even the allowable pleasures and necessary duties of this life must be watched and moderated, lest they usurp too large a share of the heart. The more we are above the world, the nearer we are to God.

BISHOP JACKSON.

Higher, higher on through life,
More above its storm and strife ;
Every day I'm older growing,
Less of earth's distractions knowing;
With a purer, freer heart,
Ready—at Thy call—to part
From its dearest ties, and higher
Rise to Jesus—higher! higher!

J. S. B. MONSELL.



December 7.

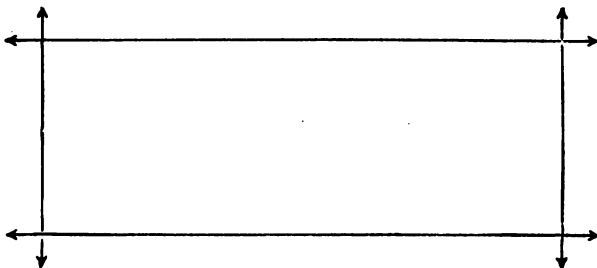
“The God of peace . . . make you perfect in every good work to do His will.”—*Heb.* xiii. 20, 21.

Let us beware of indulging a mere barren faith and love, which dreams instead of working, and is fastidious when it should be hardy. The Holy Ghost is the author of active good works, and leads us to the observance of all lowly deeds of ordinary obedience as the most pleasing sacrifice to God.—DR. NEWMAN.

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream ;
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.

Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate,
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait.

H. W. LONGFELLOW.

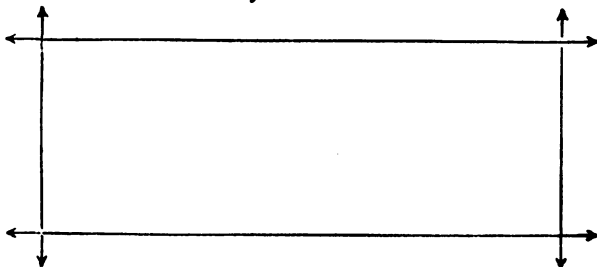


December 8.

“He that loseth his life for My sake shall find it.”
—*St. Matt. x. 39.*

Let us determine with cheerful hearts to sacrifice unto the Lord our God our comforts and pleasures, however innocent, when He calls for them. Every suffering, great or little, may, like the widow's mite, be sacrificed in faith to Him who sent it. Christ gave us the words of consecration, when He for an ensample said “Thy will be done.”—DR. NEWMAN.

Work and deny thyself;
Take up thy cross;
Follow the Master whereso'er He leads,
Be a disciple not in words but in deeds,—
Shrink not from loss—
Count well, count well the cost,
Nor grudge to pay;
Be it reproach, or toil, or pain, or strife,
Be it the loss of all, gold, fame, and life,
The end is day!—H. BONAR.



December 9.

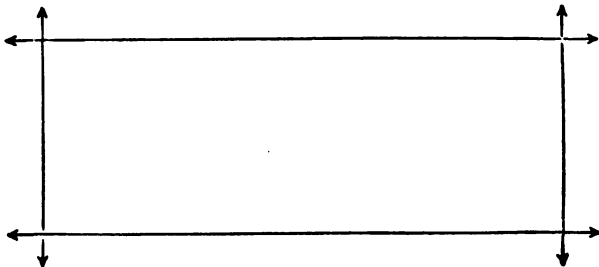
“I will hear what God the Lord will speak.”—
Psalm lxxxv. 8.

Blessed is the soul which heareth the Lord
speaking within her, and receiveth from His
mouth the word of consolation.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Master speak! Thy servant heareth,
Longing for Thy gracious word,
Longing for Thy voice that cheereth;
Master, let it now be heard,
I am listening, Lord, for Thee;
What hast Thou to say to me?
Speak to me by name, O Master,
Let me know it is to me;
Speak that I may follow faster,
With a step more firm and free,
Where the shepherd leads the flock,
In the shadow of the rock!

F. R. HAVERGAL.



December 10.

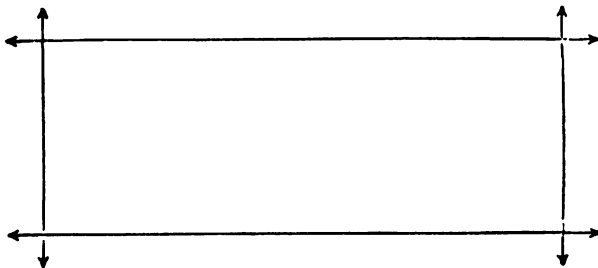
“Oh! how love I Thy law, it is my meditation all the day.”—*Psalm* cxix. 97.

He who loves God delights to study His Scriptures. It is listening to the voice of a friend, but a friend whose love is far beyond that of human friendship. He listens with a pleased and solemn attention. He would not lose one word of those precious accents.

BISHOP JACKSON.

We love the Word of life,
The Word that tells of peace,
Of comfort in the strife,
And joys that never cease.

REV. SIR H. W. BAKER.



December 11.

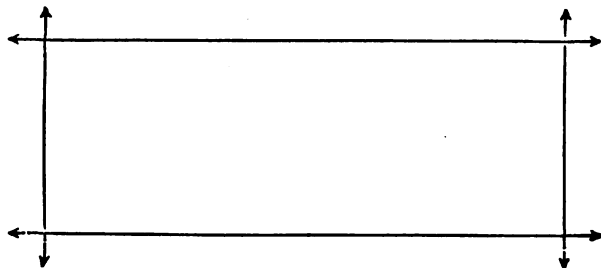
“Be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long.”
Prov. xxiii. 17.

Were we acquainted with the way of inter-mixing holy thoughts, ejaculatory eyeings of God, in our ordinary ways, it would keep the heart in a sweet temper all the day long. This were to walk with God indeed; to go all day long as in our Father's Hand.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

Thoughts of the Christ should rise at every
 And hold us all day long [turn,
 Alone, or when in crowds, each heart should
 That blessed under-song, [hear
 Which upon nature's harp is whispering still
 Its soft undying strain,
 Moving the wakeful soul with deep desire
 To see His face again.

C. M. NOEL.



December 12.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”—*St. John* xiv. 27.

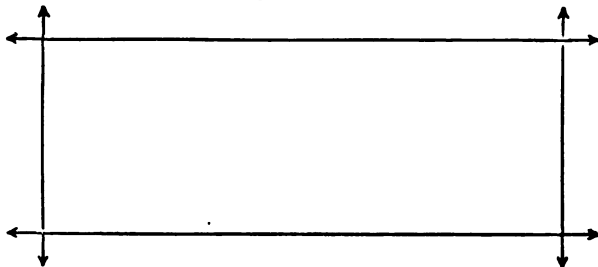
Thou art the true peace of the heart.
Thou art its only rest : out of Thee all things
are full of trouble and unrest,

THOMAS A KEMPIS.

Our life below, until the journey close,
Is often stormy and beset with foes ;
Lord, in the shadow of Thy peace give rest
When we are most opprest.

And whensoever death itself appear,
Then may thy angel-messenger be near,
And bear us hence to share, when troubles
cease,

Thine everlasting peace !—C. B. GARNE.



December 13.

— — — — —

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.”—*Eccles.* xii. i.

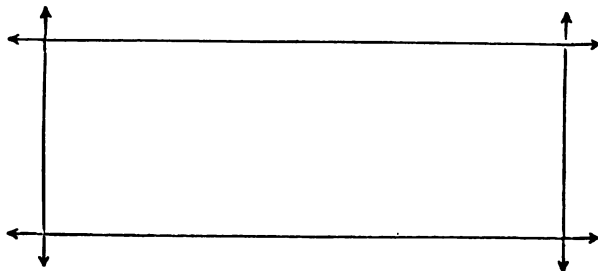
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It is a hard task only to begin to love God when all human affection has deserted us ; but if we have made Him our shadow when life's sky was clear, He will be our light when it is clouded.

— — — — —

And shall we seek the diamonds in the lone and dusky
mine
When 'mid the sunny sands of youth they wait to flash ?
Neglect the fountain of Christ's joy till woe-streams darkly
flow,
Nor seek a Father's smile until the world's cold frown we
know ?

Oh ! let it be the key-note of the symphony of gladness,
Which wots not of the broken lyre, the requiem of sadness,
For they who melodies of Heaven in hours of brightness
know
Will modulate sweet harmony from earth's discordant
woe.—F. R. HAVERGAL.



December 14.

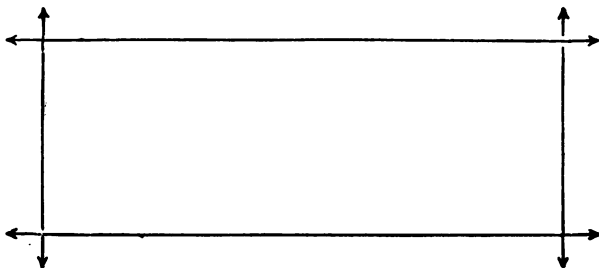
“We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”—*Rom. v. 1.*

This is the true character of our redeemed life, the bringing into every part of it the blessed presence of a reconciled Father. It is not to consist in a sour refusal of the blessings which He gives us—in wearing a sad and solemn countenance when his earth is rejoicing around us; but in receiving all from Him, as our justification, our peace, our righteousness; and then go forth to serve Him simply in our daily tasks, to delight in Him with renewed health, to honour Him with grateful thoughts, and to see His presence in everything around us.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

“Serve God and be cheerful.” Religion
Looks all the more lovely in white,
And God is best served by His servant
When, smiling, he serves in the light.

“Serve God and be cheerful.” Live nobly,
Do right and do good. Make the best
Of the gifts and the work put before you,
And to God without fear leave the rest.

W. NEWELL

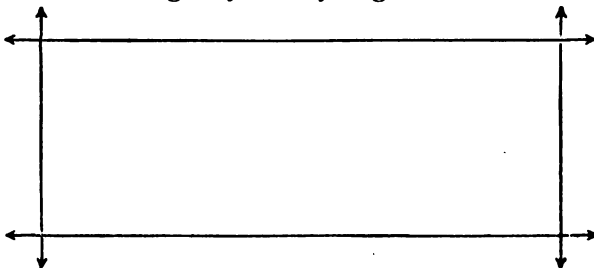


December 15.

“Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”—*St. Matt.* xviii. 3.

Christ has bid us and enabled us to become as little children; he has purchased for us the grace of simplicity, which, though one of the highest, is very little thought about, is very little sought after. We are almost blind to what is one of the first elements of Christian perfection, that simple-mindedness which springs from the heart's being whole with God, entire, undivided.—DR. NEWMAN.

Jesus, cast a look on me;
Give me sweet simplicity;
Make me poor, and keep me low,
Seeking only Thee to know.
Make me like a little child,
Of my strength and wisdom spoiled;
Seeing only in Thy light,
Walking only in Thy might.—C. WESLEY.



December 16.

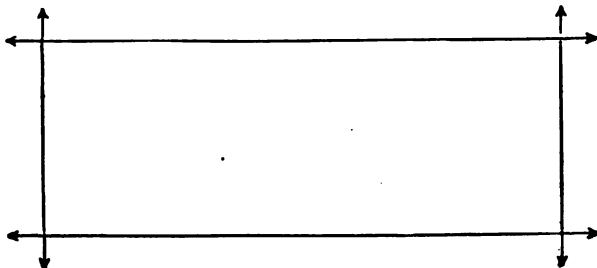
"In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence;
and His children shall have a place of refuge."—
Prov. xiv. 26.

Restless activity multiplies devotions and practices; it is given to change, it is never satisfied; but a tranquil spirit is concentrated on God, and whether in prayer or other duties, it only seeks to do His Will in the actual moment that passes, leaving all past and future to Him, losing itself in the thought of God, its one object and sole end.

JEAN N. GROU.

Sweet in the confidence of faith
To trust His firm decrees;
Sweet to lie passive in His Hand,
And know no will but His.

A. M. TOPLADY.



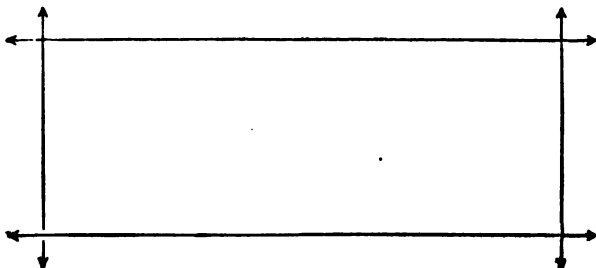
December 17.

“To every man his work.”—*St. Mark* xiii. 34.

Let us remember that, whatever our work be, so it be honest, God gave it us to do ; and the homeliest act, or repetition of monotonous acts is ennobled, if the motive be noble and the labour steadfast and brave. Think of St. Paul making tents, yea, of Christ in the carpenter's shop, and weary not of the work, however homely, however monotonous, however dull and prosaic, which yet God hath given thee to be done.—REV. J. R. VERNON.

Each hath its place in the eternal plan,
We must each do, not what we will, but can ;
And surely He who metes as we should mete,
Could we His insight use, shall most approve
Not that which fills most space in earthly eyes,
But that—though time scarce note it as he flies,
Fills, like this little daisy at my feet,
Its function best of diligence in love.

THOMAS BURBRIDGE.



December 18.

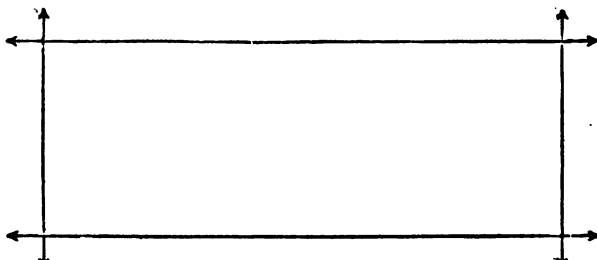
—
“They go from strength to strength.”—*Psalm*
lxxxiv. 7.
—

God grant to each of us that regular progress, that gradual growth, that passing from grace to grace, and from glory to glory, which is His best blessing to His children. May He save us alike from that stagnation of soul which is spiritual death, and from that heat and bluster of excitement, which is always disease, and sometimes delusion.

—
DEAN VAUGHAN.

For in better things we yet may grow,
Onward and upward still our way,
With the joy of progress from day to day;
Nearer and nearer every year
To the visions and hopes most true and dear;
Children of a Father's love,
Children still of a home above!

F. R. HAVERGAL.

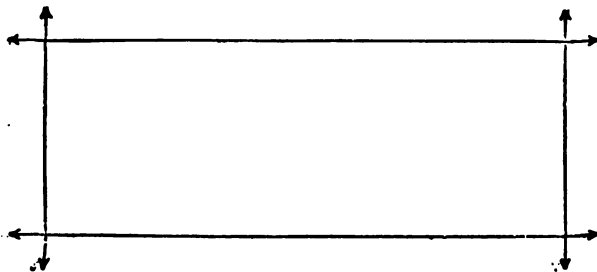


December 19.

"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus."—*Phil.* iv. 7.

If thou wilt hear Me, and follow My voice,
thou shalt be able to enjoy much peace.
Wherein then, O Lord, doth it consist? In
giving thyself up with all thine heart to the
Divine Will.—THOMAS A KEMPIS.

It is the soul's surrendered choice,
The settling of the will,
Lying down gently on the Cross
God's purpose to fulfil.—C. M. NÖEL.



December 20.

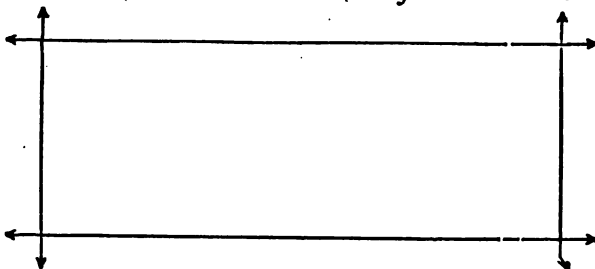
“Teach me to do thy will.”—*Psalm* cxliii. 10.

Study to follow His will in all, to have no will but His. This is thy duty and thy wisdom. Sweet peace, it is the very secret, the mystery of solid peace within, to resign all to His will, to be disposed of at His pleasure without the least contrary thought.

ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON.

O Father, not my will, but Thine be done :
So spake the Son.
Be this our charm, mellowing earth's ruder
noise
Of griefs and joys ;
That we may cling for ever to Thy breast
In perfect rest.

JOHN KEBLE.



December 21.

(St. Thomas the Apostle.)

“My Lord and my God.”—*St. John* xx. 28.

Child of God, if you would have your thoughts of God something beyond a cold feeling of His Presence, let faith appropriate Christ. You are as much the object of God's solicitude as if none lived but yourself. He has counted the hairs of your head.

REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

For all thy rankling doubts so sore

Love thou thy Saviour still,

Him for thy Lord and God adore

And ever do His will.

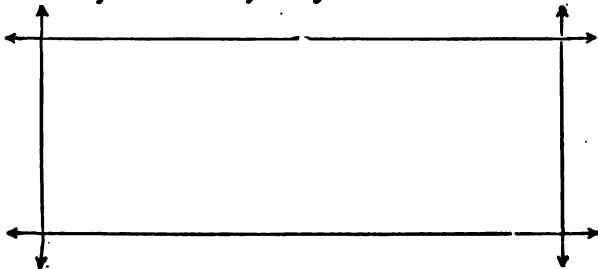
Though vexing thoughts may seem to last,

Let not thy soul be quite o'ercast ;— [say,

Soon will He show thee all His wounds and

“Long have I known thy name.—know thou

My face alway.”—JOHN KEBLE.



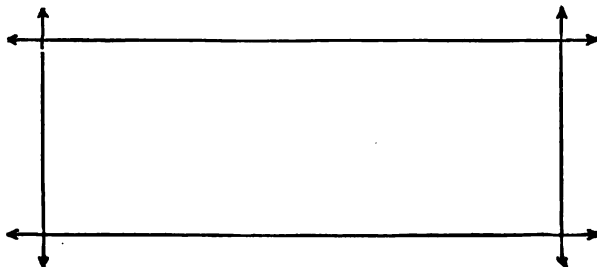
December 22.

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak.”—*St. Matt.* xxvi. 41.

The time spent in society and amusement is generally that most dangerous to one's self, though it may be very useful to others. Be on your guard, that is to say, be more faithful in remembering the Presence of God at such times. You need then especially to cultivate the watchfulness so often enjoined by our Lord. To use aspirations and lifting up of your heart to Him as the only source of strength and safety.—ARCHBISHOP FÉNÉLON.

Watch! for demons haunt around thee,
 Sin and harm beset thy path!
 Yet be sure that nothing hath
 Power to hinder or confound thee,
 So thou faithfully always
 Watch and pray.

REV. H. G. TOMKINS.



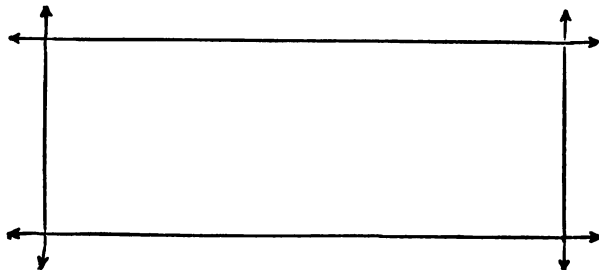
December 23.

"Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."—1 *Cor.* xv. 57.

Our polar star is the love of the Cross. Take the eye off that, and you are in darkness and bewilderment at once. Let us not mind what is past. Perhaps it is all failure and useless struggle, and broken resolves. What then? Are you in earnest? If so, though your faith be weak and your struggles unsatisfactory, you may begin the hymn of triumph *now*, for victory is pledged.

REV. F. W. ROBERTSON.

For noble souls, through dust and heat,
Rise from disaster and defeat
The stronger,
And conscious still of the divine
Within them, lie on earth supine
No longer.—H. W. LONGFELLOW.



December 24.

“He took not on Him the nature of angels, but he took on Him the seed of Abraham.”—*Heb. ii. 16.*

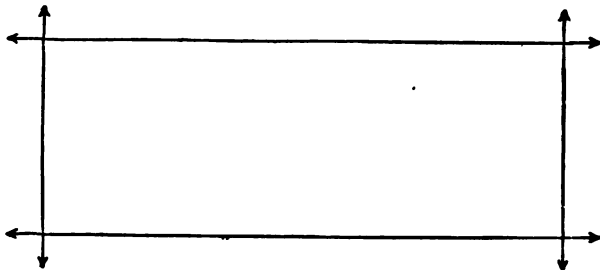
Here is that which gives its reality to the life of redeemed men; here is that which fills and glorifies every earthly relation, that Christ, the true Man, Himself partook of them; that He took on Him, and surrounded Himself with, the bonds of family life; all things are now full of Him. The joys of earthly friendships and its tears,—in these our Master went before us; in them God may be honoured.—BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

Thou knowest, not alone as God, all knowing,

As man, our mortal weakness Thou hast proved
On earth, with purest sympathies o’erflowing,

O Saviour; Thou hast wept, and Thou hast loved!
And love and sorrow still to Thee may come
And find a hiding-place, a rest, a home.

From the German.



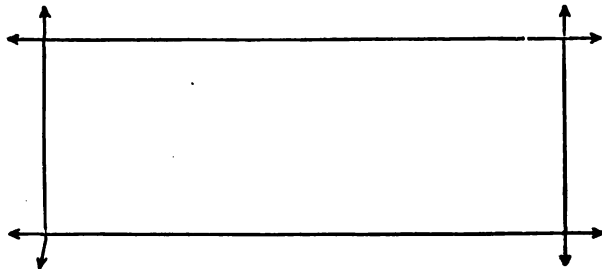
December 25.

(Christmas Day.)

—“The word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”
—*St. John* i. 14.

Let us bless Him for His surpassing loving-kindness in taking upon Him our infirmities to redeem us, when He dwelt in the innermost love of the Everlasting Father, in the glory which He had with Him before the world was. By birth the Only-begotten and express Image of God; and in taking our flesh, not sullied thereby, but raising human nature with Him, as He rose from the lowly manger to the right hand of power.—**DR. NEWMAN.**

Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

C. WESLEY.

December 26.

(St. Stephen's Day.)

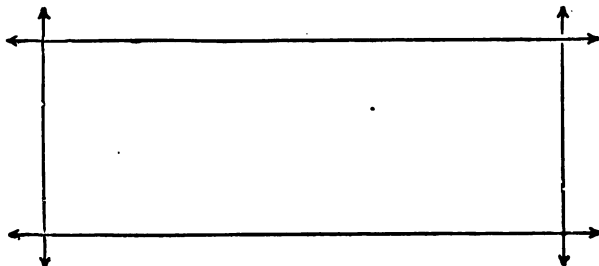
"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."—*Rev. ii. 10.*

The ineffable and unbounded goodness of God hath provided this also—that the time for labour and for agony should not be extended, not long, not enduring, but short. That in this brief and little life should be the pain and the travail, but in the life that is eternal should be the crown and the reward of merits: that the labour should quickly come to an end, but that the Diadem should never cease, that after the darkness of this world the warriors should behold that most beautiful Light, and receive a blessedness greater than the bitterness of all passions.—VENERABLE BEDE.

Brief life is here our portion,
Brief sorrow, short-lived care;
The life that has no ending,
The tearless life, is there.

And now we fight the battle,
But then shall wear the crown
Of full and everlasting
And passionless renown.

REV. J. M. NEALE, *from the Latin.*



December 27.

(St. John's Day.)

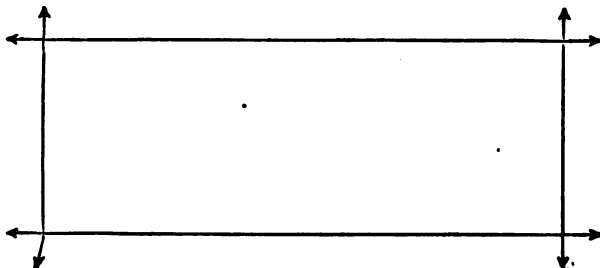
"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him. . . . Herein is our love made perfect."—1 *St. John* iv. 16, 17.

Love is given us, to help us onward, nearer to God. The most blessed is that which draws us nearest to Him; and in proportion as it leads to God, we realise its blessedness.

From the French.

Life is only bright when it proceedeth
Towards a truer, deeper life above,
Human love is sweetest, when it leadeth
To a more divine and perfect love.

A. A. PROCTER.



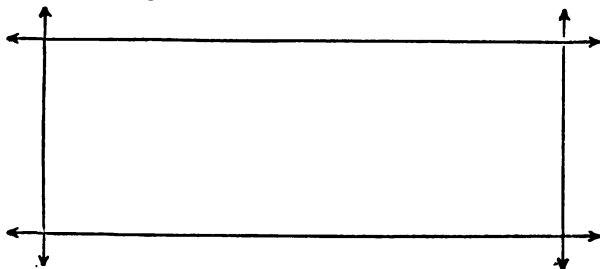
December 28.

(Holy Innocents' Day.)

“Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.”—*St. Mark x. 15.*

The purity, the simple faith, the unquestioning obedience of the little infant confiding in its mother's love, is to be the pattern of the Christian man in his dealings with his heavenly Father. If we thus share the purity of innocents, we may also hope to share their blessedness.—DEAN HOOK.

Praise for Thine infant martyrs, by Thee with
tenderest love
Called early from the warfare, to share the
rest above :
O Rachel, cease thy weeping ; they rest from
pains and cares,
Lord, grant us hearts as guileless, and crowns
as bright as theirs.—EARL NELSON.

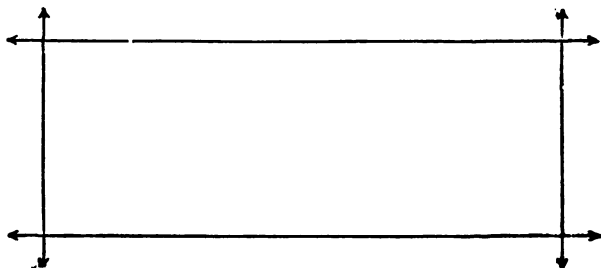


December 29.

“He that hath the Son hath life.”—I *St. John*
v. 12.

“Abide with me, Lord,” shall heal every sickness and fainting of thy soul, hush its every fear, soothe every beating of thy heart. For in the soul which calleth Jesus, He Himself dwells, and where He is, is Salvation, and Peace, and Life, and Love.—DR. PUSEY.

Then in the secret of my soul,
Though hosts my peace invade,
Though through a waste and weary land
My lonely way be made,
Thou, even Thou, wilt comfort me,—
I need not be afraid.—A. L. WARING.



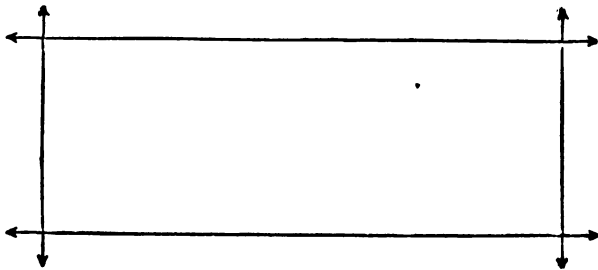
December 30.

“Redeeming the time.”—*Eph.* v. 16.

I suppose we shall never know the real value of time, till we look back upon it from Eternity. Then we shall understand how infinitely precious it has been. We trifle with the moments and let them slip through our fingers, as if they were grains of sand. If we were not so blind, we should see that they were grains of gold.—BISHOP WALSHAM HOW.

Make haste, O man, to do
Whatever must be done!
Thou hast no time to lose in sloth,
Thy day will soon be gone;
Make haste, O man, to live.

H. BONAR.



December 31.

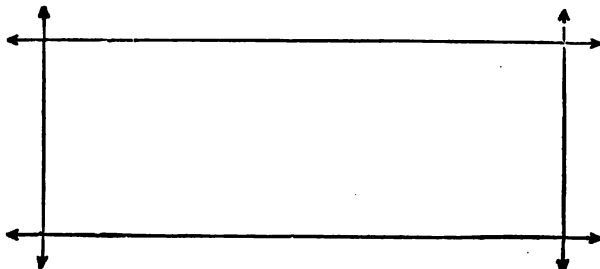
“This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”—*Phil.* iii. 13, 14.

The noble love of Jesus impels a man to do great things and stirs him up to be always longing for what is more perfect.

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

Onward, ever onward,
Journeying o'er the road
Worn by saints before us,
Journeying on to God.
Leaving all behind us
May we hasten on,
Backward never looking
Till the prize is won.

REV. GODFREY THRING.



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